

# Algebra Lec 6. Group actions, simplicity of $A_n$ .

[1] § 5 Operations of a group on a set.

$G$ . group  $S$ . set.

An operation or an action of  $G$  on  $S$ .

$$\pi: G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S), \text{ hom.}$$

$$x \mapsto \pi_x: (S \rightarrow S)$$

$$\text{hom} \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \pi_{xy}(s) = \pi_x \pi_y(s) \\ \pi_e(s) = s. \end{array} \right. \quad \pi_x(s) \stackrel{\text{denote}}{=} x \cdot s = xs.$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (xy) \cdot s = x \cdot (y \cdot s) \\ e \cdot s = s \end{array} \right.$$

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(Another definition)

Conversely, given a map

$$\begin{array}{lcl} G \times S & \longrightarrow & S \\ (x, s) & \longmapsto & x \cdot s. \\ & \Downarrow & \\ & \pi_x(s) & \end{array} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (xy)s = x(y s) \\ es = s \end{array} \right.$$

claim  $\pi_x$  is a permutation. &  $x \mapsto \pi_x$  : hom.

$$\pi_x : S \rightarrow S.$$

pf. of claim.

① permutation.

② hom is clear.

$$\pi_g \pi_g^{-1} = \text{id}_S = \pi_g^{-1} \pi_g$$

$\Rightarrow$  bijective

eg. ① Conjugation.

$G$ . group.  $x \in G$ .

$$\text{Let } \gamma_x : G \rightarrow G \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} y \mapsto xyx^{-1} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{conjugation of } G \\ \text{by } x \in G \end{array}$$

1st. method.

$$G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(G)$$

$$x \mapsto \gamma_x.$$

$$\text{hom? } \gamma_{xy} = \gamma_x \cdot \gamma_y \quad \text{clear}$$

2nd. method.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times S & \rightarrow & S \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ G & & G \\ (x, y) & \mapsto & xyx^{-1} \end{array}$$

Rmk.  $G$ . group  $S =$  the set of subsets of  $G$

$$G \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$(x, A) \mapsto xAx^{-1}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad G \times S \xrightarrow{=} G \quad S \xrightarrow{=} G$$

$$(x, y) \mapsto xy = T_x y$$

Translation by  $x$ .

left multiplication by  $x$ .

$$\textcircled{3} \quad G = GL(V) = \{ \text{inv lin transf. } V \rightarrow V \} \quad \dim V < \infty.$$

$$G \times V \rightarrow V.$$

$$(A, v) \rightarrow Av$$

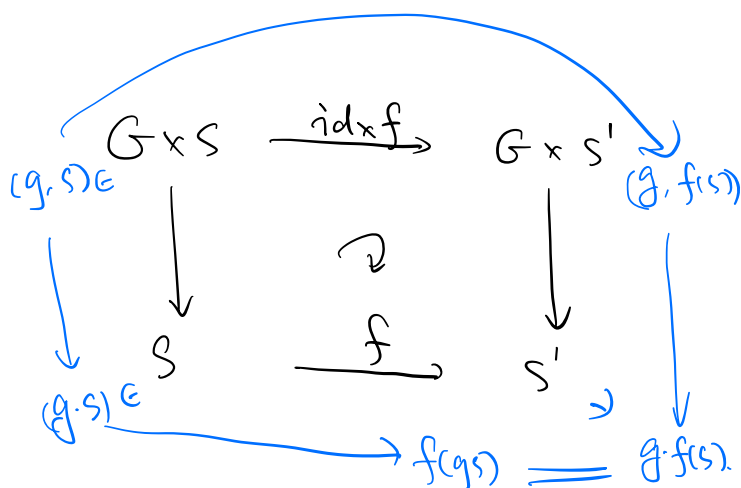
Def.

We call  $S$  is a  $G$ -set if there is a group action of  $G$  on  $S$

$S, S'$  are  $G$ -sets

$$f: S \rightarrow S' \quad \text{s.t.} \quad f(g \cdot s) = g \cdot f(s) \quad \forall g \in G, s \in S.$$

$G$ -map.



$\Rightarrow G$ -map.

Def  $G$  group action on  $S$ .

fix  $s \in S$

$$\{x \in G \mid x \cdot s = s\} \quad (x^{-1}s) = x^{-1}(xs) = es = s.$$

$\Rightarrow$   $\downarrow$  this is a group  $\triangleq G_s \leq G$

$\Uparrow$   
(isotropy group of  $s$  in  $G$ )  
(stabilizer of  $s$ )

eg.  $\cdot G$  acts on  $S = G$  by conjugation.

let  $s \in S = G$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{the isotropy group} \\ \text{of } s \in G \end{array} \right) G_s = \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{the normalizer of } s \in G \end{array} \right) \leq G$$

$\cdot G$  acts on  $S$   $s, s' \in S$   $y \in G$   $ys = s'$

$$\Rightarrow G_{s'} = y G_s y^{-1}$$

$$\text{pf. } G_{s'} = \{g \in G \mid gs' = s'\}$$

$$g(y s) = y s \quad g \in G_{s'}$$

$$(y^{-1} g y) \cdot s = s$$

$$\Rightarrow y^{-1} g y \in G_s \quad \Rightarrow y^{-1} G_{s'} y \subseteq G_s$$

Ex. the other confinement.

- $G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$

$$K = \text{kernel} = \bigcap_{s \in S} G_s$$

- Def. • A  $G$ -action is called faithful if  $K = \{e\}$

- A faithful point of  $G$  is an element  $s \in S$ .

$$\text{zt. } g^s = s. \forall g \in G$$

i.e.  $G_S = G$

Def.

$G$  acts on  $S$ .  $s \in S$

$$Gs \triangleq \{gs \in S \mid g \in G\} = \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{the orbit of } s \in S \text{ under} \\ \underline{\quad G \text{ action} \quad} \end{array} \right)$$

the orbit of  $s \in S$

the orbit containing  $s \in S$

Rank .
$$G \text{ acts on } S, \quad s \in S.$$

$G_S$  isotropy of  $s \in S$ . ( $G_S \leq G$ , not nec. normal)

- if  $x.y$  is in the same left coset of the subgroup  $H = G_S$

i.e.  $x_H = y_H \Rightarrow x_S = y_S$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= y_2 \\ f(x_1)S &= (y_2)S \end{aligned} \quad \nearrow$$

- if  $xs = ys$

$$\Rightarrow (y^{-1}x)s = s \Rightarrow y^{-1}x \in H. \Rightarrow xH = yH$$

$\Downarrow$  well define.  $f$ .

Prop.

$G$ : group.  $s \in S$ . fixed.  $H = G_s$

$$f: G/H \rightarrow S.$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} xH \mapsto x.s \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right.$$

$$f: G/H \rightarrow G.s$$

orbit containing  $s \in S$ .

$f$ : bijection.

$$\Rightarrow G/G_s \cong S,$$

$$\Rightarrow (G:G_s) = |G.s|$$

Rmk.  $G$ : group.  $H \leq G$

(The number of subgroups conjugate to  $H$ )

$$= \frac{|G|}{|N_H|}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \overset{s}{\parallel} \\ G \times \{\text{subgroups of } G\} \\ \rightarrow S \end{array}$$

Def.  $G$  acts on  $S$ .

iff. there is only one orbit, then the action is called transitive.

Thm. The orbit decomp formula

$G$  acts on  $S$ .

- 2 orbits of  $G$  are either disjoint or are equal

iff.  $G s_1 \cap G s_2 \neq \emptyset$ .

$$s = x s_1 \text{ for some } x \in G$$

$$G s = G(x s_1) = G s_1$$

$$\Rightarrow G s_1 = G s_2$$

$$\therefore S = \bigsqcup_{i \in I} G s_i$$

If  $|S| < \infty$

The orbit decomp formula

$$\Rightarrow |S| = \sum_{i \in I} |G s_i| = \sum_{i \in I} (G : G s_i)$$

- specialize to  $G$  acts on  $G$  by conjugation

$$G \times S^G \rightarrow S^G$$

$$(x, s) \mapsto x s x^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow |G| = \sum_{x \in C} (G : G_x) = \sum_{x \in C_0} (G : G_x) + \sum_{x \in C'} (G : G_x)$$

$\downarrow$  a set of representatives for distinct orbits  
 $\downarrow$  orbits with only 1 elem  $\Rightarrow C_0 = Z(G)$  center  
 $\searrow$  conjugacy class

$$= |Z| + \sum_{x \in C'} (G : G_x)$$

HW.

class equation.

[L] Chap I ex 19 ex 15

Let  $G = GL(2, \mathbb{F}_p)$ ,  $S = M_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .

Consider the group action of  $G$  on  $G$  and  $S$   
by conjugation respectively.

Classify all the orbits and compute the orders of orbits



•  $A_n$ .  $n \geq 5$ . simple

$$\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i < j} (x_j - x_i)$$

$$\tau \in S_n. \quad \tau \Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i < j} (x_{\tau(j)} - x_{\tau(i)})$$

• if  $\tau$  is a 2-cycle,  $(sr)$  transposition

$$\tau \Delta = -\Delta$$

$$\sigma \in S_n. \quad \sigma \Delta = \varepsilon(\sigma) \Delta$$

verify  $\varepsilon(\sigma\tau) = \varepsilon(\sigma) \varepsilon(\tau)$

$$\Rightarrow \varepsilon: S_n \rightarrow \{\pm 1\} \quad \text{hom}$$

$$A_n \triangleq \ker(\varepsilon) \quad \Rightarrow \quad S_n/A_n \cong \{\pm 1\}$$

$$\Rightarrow |S_n| = 2|A_n| \quad A_n \trianglelefteq S_n \quad \text{verify.}$$

Thm.  $n \geq 5$ .  $A_n$ : simple. (non-abelian)

Rmk. if the thm holds

$S_n$ : not solvable  $n \geq 5$

$$G = S_n \supseteq A_n \supseteq \{e\}$$

$$S_n/A_n = \{\pm 1\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{simple} \\ \text{not abelian.} \end{array}$$

simple, abelian

- $A_n$  is generated by 3-cycles

$$(1\ 2)(1\ 2) = e$$

$$(1\ 2)(2\ 3) = (1\ 2\ 3)$$

$$(1\ 2)(3\ 4) = (1\ 2\ 3)(2\ 3\ 4)$$

$$A_n = \text{products of 2 2-cycles} = \text{product of 3-cycle}$$

- n.b. all 3-cycles are conjugate in  $A_n$ .

$$\gamma \in S_n$$

$$\exists \gamma \in A_n \text{ s.t. } \gamma(i\ j\ k)\gamma^{-1} = (i'\ j'\ k')$$

$$\gamma(\underbrace{i_1\ i_2\ \dots\ i_m}_{m\text{-cycle}})\gamma^{-1} = (\gamma(i_1)\ \gamma(i_2)\ \dots\ \gamma(i_m))$$

Given 2 3-cycles  $(i\ j\ k)$   $(i'\ j'\ k')$

$$\text{let } \gamma(i) = i' \quad \gamma(j) = j' \quad \gamma(k) = k'$$

$$\gamma(i\ j\ k)\gamma^{-1} = (i'\ j'\ k')$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma: \text{even. i.e. } \gamma \in A_n. \text{ done!} \\ \gamma: \text{odd} \quad \gamma(\underline{rs})(\underline{ijk})(\underline{rs})^{-1} \gamma^{-1} = (\underline{i' j' k'}) \\ \text{all distinct} \end{array} \right.$$


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If of thm.

(Lemma)  $\{e\} \neq N \trianglelefteq A_n$ . If  $N$  contains a 3-cycle ↖ new to prove

$\Rightarrow N$  contains all 3-cycles  $\Rightarrow N = A_n$

Let  $\sigma \in N$ .  $\sigma \neq e$ .

$\sigma$  fixing the maximal numbers in  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

Claim.  $\sigma$  must fix something.

If of the claim. write  $\sigma$  in terms of cycle decomp

$$\sigma = (p\text{-cycle})(q\text{-cycle})$$

$$p \neq q. \text{ say } p < q \Rightarrow \sigma^p = \overset{e, \text{ violate the max assumption}}{\parallel} (p\text{-cycle})^p (q\text{-cycle})^p$$

Assume  $\sigma$  fixes nothing

$$\bullet \sigma = (12)(34)(56)(78) \text{ in } A_8$$

let  $\tau = (678) \in A_n$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}) \sigma^{-1} & = & \underline{(12)(34)(57)(86)} \underline{(12)(34)(56)(78)} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ N. \quad N & & \text{fix } 1234 \quad \times \\ \text{for } N \text{ is normal} & & \end{array}$$

•  $\sigma = (123)(345) \in A_6$

let  $\tau = (356)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\tau \sigma \tau^{-1}) \sigma^{-1} & = & (125)(463)(321)(654) \\ & \downarrow & \\ & \text{fix } 2 & \quad \times \end{array}$$

•  $\sigma = (1234)(5678)$

$\tau = (478)$

•  $\sigma = (12345)$

$\tau = (345)$

□

$\sigma = (\text{cyclic decomp}) = (\text{disjoint orbits of } \langle \sigma \rangle)$

考虑  $\langle \sigma \rangle$  作用  
在  $1, \dots, n$  上  
is group action.

- all orbits have 2 elements (i.e. 2-cycles).

$$\sigma = (1\ 2)(3\ 4) \text{ fixing } 5.$$

$$\text{let } \tau = (3\ 4\ 5) \in A_n.$$

$$(\tau\sigma\tau^{-1})\sigma^{-1} = (\cancel{1\ 2})(4\ 5)(\cancel{1\ 2})(3\ 4).$$

fixing 1, 2

- if  $\sigma$  is 3-cycle done

$$\text{if not } \sigma = (1\ 2\ 3)(4\ 5\ 6) \text{ fixing } 7$$

$$\text{let } \tau = (5\ 6\ 7)$$

$$(\tau\sigma\tau^{-1})\sigma^{-1} \Rightarrow \text{fixing } 1, 2, 3. \quad \times$$

not fixing 7

- if  $\sigma = (1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5)$  fixing 6

$$\tau = (4\ 5\ 6) \quad (\tau\sigma\tau^{-1})\sigma^{-1} \text{ fixing } 2, 3, \text{ not fixing } 6.$$

...  $\Rightarrow \sigma$  is 3-cycle  $\Rightarrow$  prove the Lemma  $\square$