

Class 6: CyclicGroup & Homomorphism - 2022/09/26

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Review

- $x \in G$.
- Define the cyclic subgroup generated by x : $\langle x \rangle = \{x^k \in G \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$.
- The order of x , denoted by $|x|$, is defined as $|\langle x \rangle|$, equivalently, $|\langle x \rangle|$ is the smallest positive integer that makes $x^{|x|} = 1$
 - $\langle x \rangle = \{1, x, x^2, \dots, x^{|x|-1}\}$ when $|x| < \infty$
 - $\langle x \rangle = \{\dots, x^{-2}, x^{-1}, 1, x, x^2, \dots\}$ when $|x| = \infty$
- Sometimes the group itself equals one of its cyclic subgroups

Cyclic Group

• Definition

- A group G is cyclic if $G = \langle x \rangle$ for some $x \in G$
- x is called the generator of G

• Example

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

- $\mathbb{Z} = \langle 1 \rangle = \langle -1 \rangle$

2. $G = \{\pm 1\}$. With number multiplication

- Multiplication table:

	1	-1
1	1	-1
-1	-1	1

- G is cyclic, $G = \langle -1 \rangle$

3. S_3 is **NOT** cyclic

- $\langle id \rangle = \{id\}$
- $\langle (1\ 2) \rangle = \{id, (1\ 2)\}$
- $\langle (1\ 3) \rangle = \{id, (1\ 3)\}$
- $\langle (2\ 3) \rangle = \{id, (2\ 3)\}$
- $\langle (1\ 2\ 3) \rangle = \langle (1\ 3\ 2) \rangle = \{id, (1\ 2\ 3), (1\ 3\ 2)\}$

Later, we'll show that S_3 is the second smallest non-cyclic group.

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The **smallest non-cyclic group** is K_4 . The **Klein Four Group**.

• Proposition

- Any subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic
- Example: $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$
 - We've proved that its subgroups are all of the form $n\mathbb{Z}$ (cyclic subgroup generated by n).

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Later, we will show that $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ is the only infinite cyclic group.

- Proof

- Given a cyclic group $G = \langle x \rangle$
- If H is a subgroup of G ,
- Consider $S = \{k \in \mathbb{Z} | x^k \in H\}$
 - S is a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ (Verify by yourself)
 - So $S = n\mathbb{Z}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$
 - $S = \{k \in \mathbb{Z} | x^k \in H\} = n\mathbb{Z}$
- It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \{x^k \in G | k \in S\} \\ &= \{x^k \in G | k \in n\mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{x^{n \cdot l} \in G | l \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \langle x^n \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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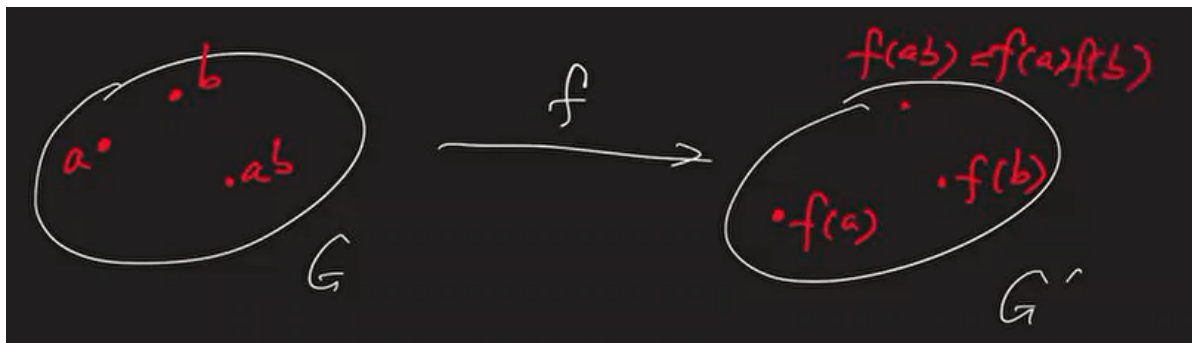
We have been studying on the groups itself. Now we are going to study about the functions on groups

Homomorphism

• Definition

A homomorphism is a map $f : G \rightarrow G'$ (G, G' are groups) satisfying :

$$\forall a, b \in G, f(ab) = f(a)f(b)$$



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-morphism: some kind of change

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This is different from homeomorphism: bijective and continuous function

• Example

1. $x \in G$. define

$$\begin{aligned} f: \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow G \\ k &\mapsto x^k \end{aligned}$$

f is a homomorphism.

$$\forall k, l \in \mathbb{Z}, f(k) \cdot f(l) = x^k \cdot x^l = x^{k+l} = f(k+l)$$

2. Trivial homomorphism:

$$f: G \rightarrow G', f(g) = 1' \forall g \in G$$

$$\forall a, b \in G, f(a)f(b) = 1' \cdot 1' = 1' = f(ab)$$

• Properties

If $f: G \rightarrow G'$ is a homomorphism, then

1. $f(1) = 1'$ (Identity maps to Identity)
2. $\forall g \in G, f(g)^{-1} = f(g^{-1})$

- Proof

1. $f(1) = f(1 \cdot 1) = f(1)f(1) \Rightarrow f(1) = 1'$
2. $\forall g \in G,$

$$f(g)f(g^{-1}) = f(gg^{-1}) = f(1) = 1'$$

$$f(g^{-1})f(g) = f(g^{-1}g) = f(1) = 1'$$

so $f(g^{-1})$ is the inverse of $f(g)$, i.e., $f(g)^{-1} = f(g^{-1})$

Kernel and Image

• Definition

If $f: G \rightarrow G'$ is a homomorphism.

- Define the Kernel of f : $\ker(f) = \{g \in G | f(g) = 1'\}$.
- Define image or range of f : $\text{Im}(f) = \{f(g) \in G' | g \in G\}$

• Prop

$\ker(f)$ is a subgroup of G , $\text{Im}(f)$ is a subgroup of G' .

- Proof

1.
 - $\forall a, b \in \ker(f), f(a) = f(b) = 1', f(ab) = f(a)f(b) = 1' \cdot 1' = 1'$
so $ab \in \ker(f)$
 - $1 \in \ker(f)$ since $f(1) = 1'$
 - $\forall a \in \ker(f), f(a) = 1', f(a^{-1}) = f(a)^{-1} = 1'^{-1} = 1'$
so $a^{-1} \in \ker(f)$

We get $\ker(f)$ is a subgroup of G .

2.
 - $\forall f(a), f(b) \in \text{Im}(f), a, b \in G$. So $ab \in G, f(ab) \in G'$.
So $ab \in \text{Im}(f)$
 - $f(1) = 1'$. So $1' \in \text{Im}(f)$
 - $\forall f(a) \in \text{Im}(f), a, a' \in G. f(a)^{-1} = f(a^{-1}) \in G'$

• Prop

If $f : G \rightarrow G'$ is a homomorphism, then f is injective if and only if $\ker(f) = \{1\}$.

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Note that f must be a homomorphism, and kernel is only defined for homomorphisms

- Proof

- If $\ker(f) = \{1\}$:
 - For any $a, b \in G$ with $f(a) = f(b)$

$$f(b)^{-1}f(a) = 1'$$

$$f(b^{-1})f(a) = 1'$$

$$f(b^{-1}a) = 1'$$
 - So $b^{-1}a \in \ker(f) = \{1\}, b^{-1}a = 1, a = b$
 - The function f is injective
- If f is injective:
 - The $\ker(f) = \{g \in G | f(g) = 1'\}$ consists of at most 1 element
 - $1 \in \ker(f)$
 - So $\ker(f) = \{1\}$

• Examples

1. Fix $x \in G$.

Define $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G. f(k) = x^k$

$$\begin{aligned} \ker(f) &= \{k \in \mathbb{Z} | f(k) = 1\} \\ &= \{k \in \mathbb{Z} | x^k = 1\} \\ &= \begin{cases} \{0\}, & |x| = \infty \\ |x|\mathbb{Z}, & |x| < \infty \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}(f) &= \{f(k) \in G \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{x^k \in G \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \langle x \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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Proposition:

In fact, If $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$ is a homomorphism, then $\exists x \in G, f(k) = x^k$

Proof:

Let $x = f(1)$.

If $k > 0$, $f(k) = f(1 + 1 + \dots + 1)$ (k copies) $= (f(1))^k = x^k$

For $k \leq 0$, similar argument.

Therefore we can verify that $f(k) = x^k$ and $f(1) = x$

It tells us that **Homomorphisms from \mathbb{Z} to G** are of this form of $f(k) = x^k$

And for each homomorphism, it gives us the corresponding cyclic subgroup as a image.

This is another way of interpretation of **cyclic subgroups**

Each subgroup can be seen as the image of a homomorphism from \mathbb{Z} to G in the form that

$$f(x) = x^k$$

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2. Trivial homomorphism:

$$f : G \rightarrow G', \quad f(g) = 1' \quad \forall g \in G$$

$$\ker(f) = \{g \in G \mid f(g) = 1'\} = G$$

$$\text{Im}(f) = \{f(g) \in G' \mid g \in G\} = \{1'\}$$

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Roughly speaking, **larger $\ker(f)$ leads to smaller $\text{Im}(f)$**

Also, if the kernel is bigger, the function is far from injective. If the kernel is the smallest, the function is injective.

We'll prove later that $|\ker(f)| \cdot |\text{Im}(f)| = |G|$