Math 493

Honors Algebra I

University of Michigan

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August 31, 2023

Contents

INTRODUCTION & MOTIVATION

We will study

(a) Linear algebra

(b) Group Theory

(c) Finite Group Representations

In 494 we will study

(a) Ring Theory

(b) Fields

(c) Galois Theory

This class is good preparation for 575 or 676. The official textbook is Artin's Second edition. We will probably proceed in a different order than Artin. Other than Artin's look into Dummit & Foote, Lang, Hirstine. Pick the book that you like and read it. Sit four to a table.

Sometimes a polished proof will not be presented in class and you are expected to finish the proof at home.

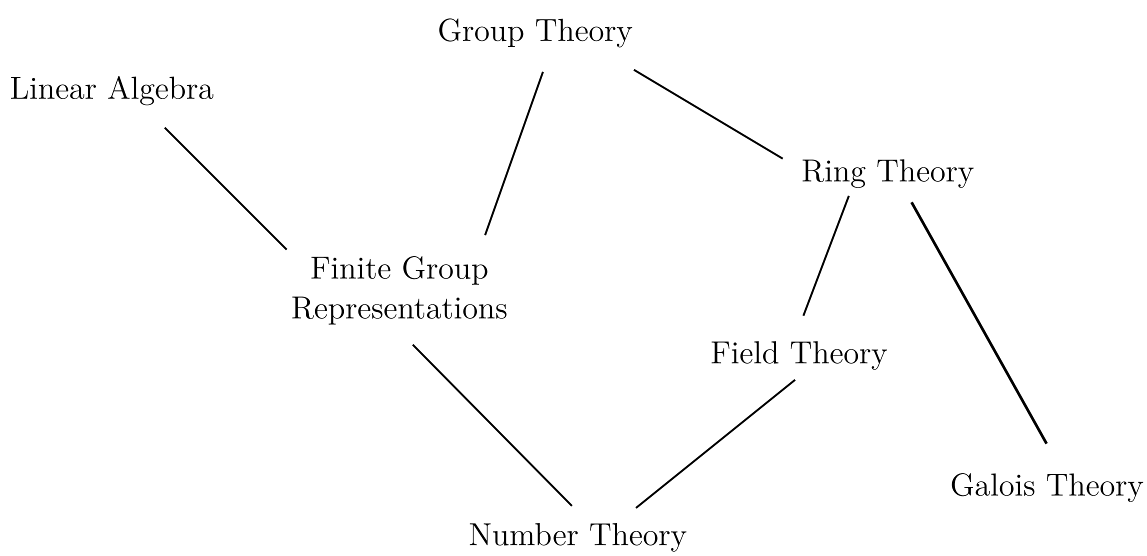

Figure 1: Partial Ordering of Course Topics

GROUP THEORY

Definition. (Group)
A group is a set G with a binary operation $\star : G \times G \to G$.
(i) $\exists e \in G$ such that $e \star a = a \star e = a$ for all $a \in G$ (existence of identity)
(ii) $\forall a, b, c \in G$ we have $(a \star b) \star c = a \star (b \star c)$ (distributivity of $\star$)
(iii) $\forall a \in G,\ \exists a' \in G$ such that $a \star a' = a' \star a = e$ (existence of inverses)

Examples:

(a) The trivial group
(b) $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$
(c) $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}, \oplus)$
(d) $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, +)$
(e) $(\mathbb{Q}^{\times}, \cdot)$ (nonzero rationals)
(f) $\mathrm{Aut}(S)$ for any set S, this is the symmetric group S_n when $|S| = n \in \mathbb{N}$
(g) Rotations of a square
(h) Free group on n elements

The Symmetric Group

Consider $S_1, S_2, S_3, \ldots$
Already, S_3 is quite complex. Recall that $|S_n| = n!$.

Note that S_2 has one generator and S_3 has two generators:

$$\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \tau = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Every column and row in the Cayley Table of S_n has every element exactly once.

S_1	e
e	e

S_2	e	σ
e	e	σ
σ	σ	e

S_3	e	τ	τ^2	σ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$
e	e	τ	τ^2	σ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$
τ	τ	τ^2	e	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ	$\sigma\tau$
τ^2	τ^2	e	τ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ
σ	σ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$	e	τ	τ^2
$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ	τ^2	e	τ
$\sigma\tau^2$	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ	$\sigma\tau$	τ	τ^2	e

Note that $\tau\sigma = \sigma\tau^2 \implies \tau^k\sigma = \sigma\tau^{2k}$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Definition. (Subgroup)
Suppose G is a group and $H \subseteq G$ such that

(a) $e \in H$
(b) $\forall a, b \in H$ we have $a \star b \in H$
(c) $\forall a \in H$ we have $a^{-1} \in H$

H is a group with the group law inherited from G. If $S \subseteq G$, then $\langle S \rangle$ is the subgroup generated by S (note that S may be a singleton).

Now we find all subgroups of S_3: $S_3, \{e\}, \{e, \sigma\}, \{e, \tau, \tau^2\}, \{e, \sigma\tau\}, \{e, \sigma\tau^2\}$. There are three subsets of S_3 that are isomorphic to S_2 and one isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$. You can find subgroups by taking a single element and taking all powers of it (positive and negative). We obtain a lattice of subgroups.

Definition. (Order)
If $a \in G$, the **order** of G is $\mu n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a^n = e$. If no such n exists, then a has **infinite order**. Note that the order of all elements in a finite group are finite (pigeon hole principal).

Note that $S_3 \cong D_3$, the rigid symmetries of an equilateral triangle. We have three reflections over each axis and rotations by $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ and $\frac{4\pi}{3}$.

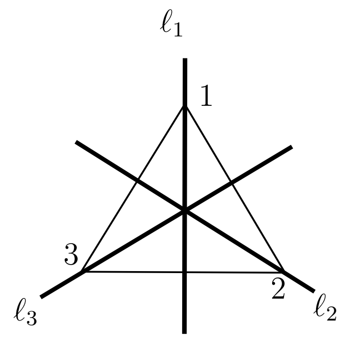

Figure 2: D_3

As isomorphisms of $\mathbb{R}^2$ we have

$$S_3 \cong D_3 \cong \left\{ I_2, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Since rotations of $\mathbb{R}^2$ are parametrized by $\begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix}$.

D_n is the group of rigid rotations of a regular n-gon. Note that $D_n \hookrightarrow S_n$ and $|D_n| = 2n$.

MATRIX OPERATIONS

History