

Math 493

Honors Algebra I

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Contents

1	Introduction & Motivation	2
2	Group Theory	2
2.1	Lagrange's Theorem & Quotient Groups	5
2.2	Cauchy's Theorem	9
2.3	The Sylow Theorems	11
2.4	Group Actions on Sets	16
2.5	Simple Groups	17
2.6	Group Presentation	22
2.7	Coxeter Todd Algorithm	23
3	Symmetry	23
4	Group Representations	30
4.1	Invariant Complements	33
4.2	Character Tables for Small Groups	35
4.3	Bilinear & Sesquilinear Maps	36

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.

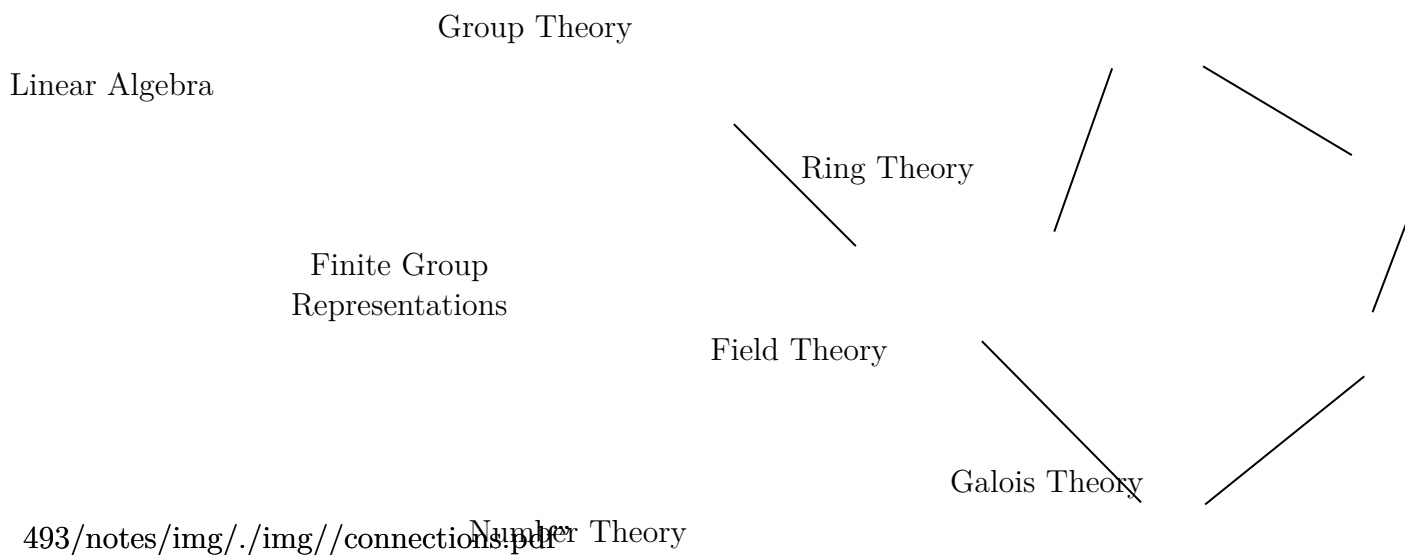


Figure 1: Partial Ordering of Course Topics

GROUP THEORY

Definition. (Group)

A group is a set G with a binary operation $\star : G \times G \rightarrow G$.

- (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 $(a \star b) \star c = a \star (b \star c)$ (associativity 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) $\text{Aut}(S)$ 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

Consider S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots

Already, S_3 is quite complex. Recall that $|S_n| = n!$.

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

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

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

S_1	e	S_2	e	σ	S_3	e	τ	τ^2	σ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$
e	e	e	e	e	e	e	τ	τ^2	σ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$
e	e	e	e	e	τ	τ	τ^2	e	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ	$\sigma\tau$
e	e	e	e	e	τ^2	τ^2	e	τ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ
e	e	e	e	e	σ	σ	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$	e	τ	τ^2
e	e	e	e	e	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau$	$\sigma\tau^2$	σ	τ^2	e	τ
e	e	e	e	e	$\sigma\tau^2$	$\sigma\tau^2$	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 : $S_3, \{e\}, \{e, \tau, \tau^2\}, \{e, \sigma\}, \{e, \sigma\tau\}, \{e, \sigma\tau^2\}$. 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 a 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 $\frac{4\pi}{3}$.

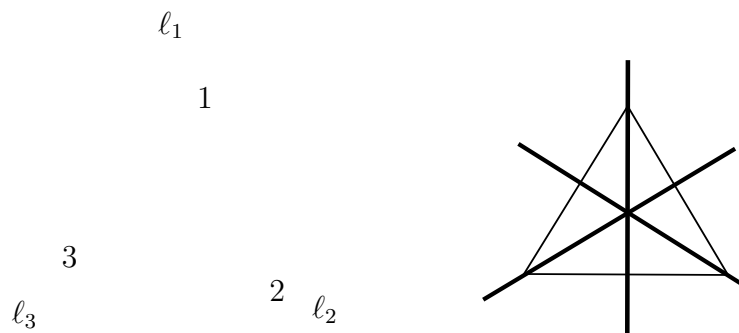


Figure 2: D_3

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 $|D_n| = 2n$. Explicitly D_n is the group with presentation

$$D_n = \langle x, y : x^n = e = y^2, yxy^{-1} = x^{-1} \rangle.$$

Geometrically, it is clear that $y^{-1} = y$ and $x^{-1} = x^{n-1}$.

Lagrange's Theorem & Quotient Groups

Theorem. (Lagrange's Theorem)

If $H \subseteq G$ a subgroup of a finite group G , then $|H|$ divides $|G|$.

Proof.

$P = \{gH : g \in G\}$ defines an equally sized partition on G . Since G is finite, the partition is finite and it must be that $|P| \cdot |H| = |G|$. \square

Definition. (Cosets)

Let $H \subseteq G$ be a subgroup.

A **left coset** of H in G is a subset of G of the form $aH = \{ah : h \in H\}$.

Similarly, A **right coset** of H in G is a subset of G of the form $Ha = \{ha : h \in H\}$.

Find all left and right cosets of all subgroups of S_3 . Let $H = \{e, \tau, \tau^2\}$, then $eH \sqcup \sigma H \cong S_3$. Note that $eH = \tau H = \tau^2 H$ and $\sigma \tau H = \sigma H = \sigma \tau^2 H$. Similarly, for $K = \{e, \sigma\}$ we have $eK = \sigma K$, $\tau K = \sigma \tau^2 K$, and $\tau^2 K = \sigma \tau K$.

Subgroup	Left Cosets	Right Cosets
G	G	Gb
$\{e\}$	$\{\{a\} : a \in G\}$	$\{\{a\} : a \in G\}$
$K = \{e, \tau, \tau^2\}$	$K, \sigma K$	$K, K\sigma$
$H_1 = \{e, \sigma\}$	$H_1, \tau H_1, \tau^2 H_1$	$H_1, H_1\tau, H_1\tau^2$
$H_2 = \{e, \sigma\tau\}$	$H_2, \tau H_2, \tau^2 H_2$	$H_2, H_2\tau, H_2\tau^2$
$H_3 = \{e, \sigma\tau^2\}$	$H_3, \tau H_3, \tau^2 H_3$	$H_3, H_3\tau, H_3\tau^2$

But note that $\tau^m H_k \neq H_k \tau^m$ for $m \in [2]$ and $k \in [3]$.

Fix a subgroup $H \subseteq G$. We now prove **Lagrange's Theorem** via three statements.

- (a) Any two left cosets of H in G are either identical or disjoint.

Proof.

Suppose $aH \cap bH \neq \emptyset$ so then there exists

$$c = ah_1 = bh_2 \implies a = b(h_2h_1^{-1}) \in bH \implies a \in bH.$$

Now for any element ah_3 of aH we have

$$ah_3 = b(h_2h_1^{-1})h_3 \in bH$$

Thus $aH \subseteq bH$. Interchanging the roles of aH and bH shows $bH \subseteq aH$. \square

- (b) All cosets have the same cardinality.

Proof.

Let $H \subseteq G$ be a subgroup and take $a \in G$. Define $f : H \rightarrow aH$ given by $f(x) = ax$. f is surjective by construction and if $f(x) = ax = ay = f(y)$, then $x = y$ by cancellation. So f is a bijection. Thus $|eH| = |aH|$ for all $a \in G$. \square

- (c) Finally, $G = \sqcup(\text{left cosets})$

Proof.

Given (a) it suffices to show $G = \cup(\text{left cosets})$. Pick $a \in G$, then $a \in aH \in (\text{left cosets})$. \square

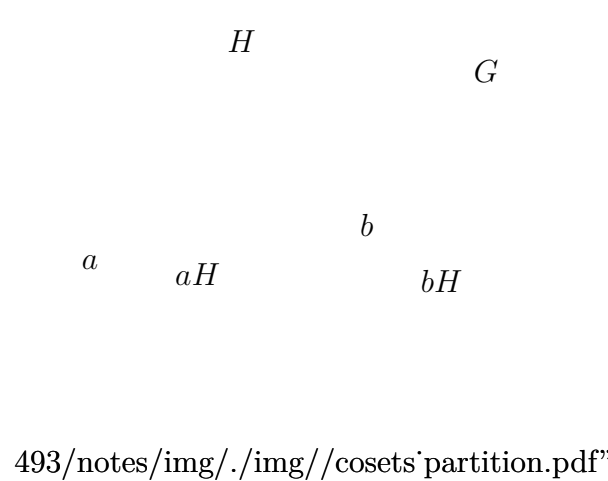


Figure 3: Cosets partition G

Definition. (Index)

The **index** of a subgroup $H \subseteq G$ is given by $[G : H]$ and gives the cardinality of the number of left cosets (which equals the number of right cosets).

Prove at home this holds for finite and infinite number of cosets.

Definition. (Cyclic Group)

A group G is said to be **cyclic** provided that $G = \langle a \rangle$ for some $a \in G$. Therefore, every cyclic group is countable and isomorphic to either \mathbb{Z} or—if finite— $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proposition.

If $|G| = p$, a prime number, then G is cyclic.

Note: For every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, \exists a cyclic group of order n . We write this group C_n .

Definition. (Homomorphism)

A **homomorphism** is a map $\phi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ such that $\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$ and we call ϕ an **isomorphism** if ϕ is bijective.

Exercise: Classify groups of small order up to isomorphism.

Definition. (Direct Product)

Suppose G_1, G_2 are groups. Then $G_1 \times G_2$ with componentwise multiplication and inverses is a group of order $|G_1| \cdot |G_2|$. Note the direct product of cyclic groups is cyclic.

We prove that we have exhausted all groups of order four. Suppose there is an element of order four, then $G \cong C_4$. Suppose there is no element of order four, then every nontrivial element has order 2. The very cute fact about groups which have this property is that $\forall a, b \in G$ we have $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1} = ba = ab$. Another way to prove this is $(ab)^2 = e = a^2b^2$.

Order	Groups
1	C_1
2	C_2
3	C_2
4	$C_4, C_2 \times C_2$
5	C_5
6	C_6, S_3
7	C_7
8	$C_8, (C_2)^3, D_4$

We prove that we have exhausted all groups of order six. Let G be an arbitrary group of order six. If there is an element of order six then $G \cong C_6$. Suppose there are no elements of order six ...

Definition. (Normal Subgroup)

Let $N \subseteq G$ be a subgroup. The following are equivalent

- (i) $aN = Na$ for all $a \in G$.
- (ii) $aNa^{-1} = N \forall a \in G$
- (iii) $a^{-1}Na = N \forall a \in G$
- (iv) $aNa^{-1} \subseteq N \forall a \in G$
- (v) $N \subseteq aNa^{-1} \forall a \in G$
- (vi) Every left coset of N in G is a right coset.
- (vii) Every right coset of N in G is a left coset.

Definition

N is said to be **normal** in G if it satisfies any of the aforementioned conditions. We write $N \trianglelefteq G$ to denote that N is normal in G .

Proof.

(i) \implies (ii) \implies (iii) \implies (iv) \implies (v) is clear.

Suppose every left coset of N is a right coset this means that $\forall a \in G, aN = Nb$ for some $b \in G$. Certainly $a \in Nb$. Since right cosets are disjoint the only right coset that contains a is Na so a and b are representatives for the same right coset. \square

Exercise: Identify all $N_1 \subseteq S_3$ and $N_2 \subseteq D_4$ such that $N_1 \trianglelefteq S_3$ and $N_2 \trianglelefteq D_4$.

The moment you find one conjugate that is different you know it is not normal. Note that all $H \subseteq S_3$ such that $H \cong S_2$ are conjugate to each other.

Group	Normal Subgroups
S_3	$\{e\}, \{e, \tau, \tau^2\}, S_3$
D_4	$\{e\}, \{e, x^2\}, \{e, x, x^2, x^3\},$ $\{e, yx, yx^3, x^2\}, \{e, y, yx^2, x^2\}$

A subgroup of order two is normal only when it is contained in the center. This follows since you need $ak = ka$ for the one nontrivial $k \in K \subseteq G$.

Cute Fact: Any subgroup of index two is normal. This follows since if $K \subseteq G$ has index two, then the right cosets are K and $G - K$ (certainly the same thing holds of the left cosets).

Let $\phi : G \rightarrow \{K, G \setminus K\}$ be given by $\phi(g) = gK$. Now $\phi \in \text{Hom}(G, C_2)$ and $\ker(\phi) = K$. Since $\{K, G \setminus K\} \cong C_2$ we are done (WHY?).

Definition. (Quotient Group)

Let $N \subseteq G$ be a normal subgroup. Then we can define the **quotient group** G/N which is as a set is the collection of left (resp. right) cosets and has group law $aN \star bN = abN$. This is well defined. G/N has identity $eN = N$ and inverses $(aN)^{-1} = a^{-1}N$.

Proof.

$$aN \star bN = (aN)(bN) = a(Nb)N = (ab)NN = abN$$

where the third equality follows since N is normal, shows that the product is well defined. □

Proposition. (Normal Subgroups are Kernels of Homomorphism)

If $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(G, H)$, then $\ker \varphi = \{g \in G : \varphi(g) = e\}$ is a normal subgroup.

Proof.

$aNa^{-1} \subseteq N \forall a \in G$. Given $n \in N$, ana^{-1} is annihilated by φ . Meaning,

$$\varphi(ana^{-1}) = \varphi(a)\varphi(n)\varphi(a^{-1}) = aea^{-1} = e.$$

The converse is also true. So the normal subgroups are exactly the kernels of $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(G, H)$.

Now to prove the converse, Define a map $\psi : G \rightarrow G/N$ where $\psi(a) = aN$. Then $N = \ker(\psi)$ by construction. □

We can now give a characterization of quotients. Taking successive quotients of a group leads to subsets of subsets and becomes cumbersome.

Proposition. (Universal Property of Quotient Map)

Let $\varphi_1 : G \rightarrow G_1$ be any homomorphism such that $N \subseteq \ker(\varphi_1)$.

In other words φ_1 annihilates N .

Then $\exists! \psi \in \text{Hom}(G/N, G_1)$ such that $\varphi_1 = \psi \circ \pi$.

Moreover, $N = \ker(\varphi_1) \iff \psi$ is injective.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\pi} & G/N \\ & \searrow \varphi_1 & \downarrow \psi \end{array}$$

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Uniqueness is easiest to check because we only need to check the diagram commutes. If ψ exists, it must be unique and must be given by the formula $\psi(aN) = \varphi_1(a)$ since φ_1 is surjective.

Now we need to check that the map ψ is well defined (since it is defined via coset representatives). Suppose $aN = bN$, so $a = bn$ for $n \in N$. This gives $\varphi_1(a) = \varphi_1(b)\varphi_1(n) = \varphi_1(b)$.

Now we show the second portion. Suppose $N = \ker(\varphi_1)$, then ψ is injective because $\ker(\psi) = \{e\}$. This follows since $\psi(aN) = e \iff \varphi_1(a) = e \iff a \in N$.

Now suppose that ψ is injective, so $\ker(\psi) = \{e\}$. This means that $\varphi_1(a) = e \iff a \in N$.

By prof: ψ is injective $\iff \ker(\psi) = \{e\} \iff K/N = \{e\} \iff K = N$. □

Theorem. (First Isomorphism Theorem)

Let $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(G, H)$. Then we can **factor** φ through $\ker(\varphi)$. Meaning, $\exists! \psi \in \text{Hom}(G/\ker(\varphi), H)$ such that $\varphi = \psi \circ \pi$ where π is projection onto the kernel, ψ is an isomorphism witnessing $G/\ker(\varphi) \cong \text{Im}(\varphi)$, and ι denotes the inclusion map.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & H \\ \pi \downarrow & & \uparrow \iota \\ G/\ker(\varphi) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \text{Im}(\varphi) \end{array}$$

A natural question to ask arises. How are subgroups of G/N related to subgroups of G ?

Proposition. (The Correspondence Theorem)

Let $N \subseteq G$ be a subgroup. There is a bijection g between subgroups of G containing N and subgroups of G/N . $h(K) = K/N$ and $h(K/N) = h^{-1}(K)$ (or the fibres of K under h). The normality of a subgroup is preserved under the map h .

Proof.

See homework. □

We should interpret this as saying that the lattice of subgroups of G/N describes the lattice of subgroups of G at the “top”.

Cauchy’s Theorem

Lemma. (Order Lemma)

Let $h : G \rightarrow G_1$ be a homomorphism. Take $x \in G_1$, $o(g)$ for $g \in h^{-1}(x)$ is a multiple of $o(x)$.

Definition. (Conjugates)

Let $x, y \in G$. We say x and y are **conjugate** in G provided that $\exists g \in G$ such that $y = gxg^{-1}$.

So $C_x = \{y \in G : \exists g \text{ s.t. } y = gxg^{-1}\}$

Note that conjugacy is an equivalence relation. Let’s take a look at the equivalence classes produced by conjugation in S_3 . $C_e = \{e\}$, $C_\tau = \{\tau, \tau^2\}$, and $C_\sigma = \{\sigma, \sigma\tau, \sigma\tau^2\}$.

Note: In an abelian group all conjugacy classes are singletons.

Note: Elements of the same conjugacy class have the same order because

$$(gxg^{-1})^n = gx^n g^{-1}.$$

Think about how when we want to take powers of a matrix, we first try to diagonalize the matrix.

Notation: Let $H \subseteq G$ be a subgroup.

Then G/H is the set of left cosets H in G and $G \backslash H$ is the set of right cosets of H in G .

Theorem. (Size of Conjugacy Class)

Let G be a finite group. Let $x \in G$, then the cardinality of the conjugacy class of x divides the order of G .

Take $x, g_1, g_2 \in G$. Then,

$$g_1 x g_1^{-1} = g_2 x g_2^{-1} \iff (g_2^{-1} g_1) x = x (g_2^{-1} g_1) \iff g_2^{-1} g_1 \text{ commutes with } x \iff g_2^{-1} g_1 \in \mathcal{Z}_G(x)$$

Exercise: Write $\mathcal{Z}_G(x) = \{g \in G : gx = xg\}$.

(i) Show that $\mathcal{Z}_G(x)$ is a subgroup of G .

(ii) Furthermore, show there is a bijection $C_x \leftrightarrow G/\mathcal{Z}_G(x)$.

Proof.

Certainly $e \in \mathcal{Z}_G(x)$ and suppose $a, b \in \mathcal{Z}_G(x)$. Then, $ax = xa \implies bax = bxa \implies bax = xab$ since $bx = xb$. Also $ax = xa \implies xa^{-1} = a^{-1}x$.

Now we show there is a bijection. Let $\gamma : G \rightarrow C_x$ be given by $\gamma(g) = gxg^{-1}$. This map is surjective by definition. Now

$$\gamma(g_1) = \gamma(g_2) \iff g_2^{-1} g_1 \in \mathcal{Z}_G(x) \iff g_1 \in g_2 \mathcal{Z}_G(x) \iff g_1 \mathcal{Z}_G(x) = g_2 \mathcal{Z}_G(x).$$

Which shows that γ gives a bijection $G/\mathcal{Z}_G(x) \rightarrow C_x$.

□

The center of a group consists of exactly the elements which have singleton conjugacy classes.

Theorem. (Class Equation)

Let G be a finite group. Then

$$|G| = \sum_{x \in G} |C_x| = |\mathcal{Z}(G)| + \sum_{x \in G \setminus \mathcal{Z}(G)} |C_x| = |\mathcal{Z}(G)| + \sum_{x \in G \setminus \mathcal{Z}(G)} \frac{|G|}{|\mathcal{Z}_G(x)|}$$

Theorem. (Cauchy's Theorem)

Let G be a finite group. Let p be a prime number such that p divides $|G|$, then G contains an element of order p .

Proof.

Case I: Suppose G is cyclic, then there is an element x such that $\langle x \rangle = G$ and x has order $|G| = n$. If p is prime and divides n , then $n = pm$ and x^m has order p .

Case II: Suppose G is abelian. If $|G| = 2$, then we know $G \cong C_2$ which satisfies the theorem. Assume inductively that the theorem holds for all G such that $|G| < k$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Take nontrivial $x \in G$ and consider $H = \langle x \rangle$, which is cyclic. If p divides the order of H we are done by Case I, if not then consider G/H (H is normal since G is abelian). $|G/H| = |G|/|H|$ which is less than k (and divisible by p), so the inductive hypothesis guarantees that G/H has an element of order p . Call this element aH .

Now we can lift this to an element of order p in G by the natural isomorphism between G/H and subgroups of G containing H .

Case III:

Here are the hints. (i) Use the class equation, (ii) use the abelian case, and (iii) induct on $|G|$.

If p divides $|\mathcal{Z}(G)|$ then we are done by Case II since the center of a group is abelian. Suppose not, then at least one summand is not divisible by p (i.e. $\exists x$ such that p does not divide $\frac{|G|}{|\mathcal{Z}_G(x)|}$). This follows since if every summand was divisible by p then $|G|$ would not be divisible by p .

So if p does not divide the ratio (which is the summand), then p must divide the denominator $|\mathcal{Z}_G(x)|$ which is less than $|G|$. By induction, we are done. \square

Proposition. (Groups of Prime Order have Nontrivial Centers)

If $|G| = p^n$ for p prime, then $\mathcal{Z}(G) \neq \{e\}$.

Corollary.

Any group of order p^2 is abelian.

Proof.

If G is abelian we are done. Suppose not. Take $x \notin \mathcal{Z}(G)$, then since $\mathcal{Z}_G(x) \subseteq G$ by Lagrange's Theorem $|\mathcal{Z}_G(x)| = p^i$ for $i < n$. Since $|G| = p^n$ we know $p \mid \frac{|G|}{|\mathcal{Z}_G(x)|}$. Now the Class Equation ensures that $p \mid |\mathcal{Z}(G)|$ which shows $|\mathcal{Z}(G)| \geq p$.
 \therefore the center of G is nontrivial.

Now we prove the Corollary.

Let $|G| = p^2$ for a prime p . We know that $|\mathcal{Z}(G)| \in \{p, p^2\}$. Suppose $|\mathcal{Z}(G)| = p$. Take $y \notin \mathcal{Z}(G)$. Note that $\mathcal{Z}_G(y) \supset \mathcal{Z}(G)$. But both of these are subgroups, so since $|\mathcal{Z}(G)| = p$ it must be that $|\mathcal{Z}_G(y)| = p^2 = |G|$. Contradiction! Thus every group of order p^2 is abelian. \square

The Sylow Theorems

Definition. (p -Sylow Subgroup)

Let G be a finite group such that $|G| = p^r \cdot m$ where p is prime, $r \geq 1$, and p does not divide m . A p -Sylow subgroup of G is a subgroup $H \subseteq G$ such that $|H| = p^r$.

Theorem. (Sylow Theorems)

Let G be a finite group with $|G| = p^r \cdot m$ where p is prime, $r \geq 1$, and p does not divide m .

- (1) G contains a p -Sylow subgroup H .
- (2) (Weak version) Any two p -Sylow subgroups are conjugate in G . Meaning, if $H_1, H_2 \subseteq G$ are p -Sylow then $\exists g \in G$ such that $H_2 = gH_1g^{-1}$.
- (3) The number of p -Sylow subgroups
 - divides m and
 - is congruent to 1 mod p .

Exercise: Classify all groups of order 15.

Note that $15 = 5 \cdot 3$. Take $p = 5$ and $m = 3$, this makes $r = 1$. By (3) any group of order 15 has exactly one 5-Sylow subgroup and exactly one 3-Sylow subgroup. These subgroups must be cyclic because they have prime order. Furthermore their intersection must be trivial.

Take an element not in the union of the aforementioned subgroups. Its order must be 15 because (a) it cannot be the identity, (b) its order cannot be 3 since that would generate a new 3-Sylow subgroup, (c) cannot have order 5 for the same reason.

$C_{15} \cong C_5 \times C_3$ by the internal direct product construction. Both C_5 and C_3 are normal in G because conjugation produces another 5-Sylow and 3-Sylow respectively. But C_5 and C_3 are the unique Sylow subgroups. This gives us the conditions to satisfy the internal direct product construction. Thus we have determined all groups of order 15 up to isomorphism.

Exercise: Classify all groups of order 21. This one is trickier because $7 \bmod 3 \equiv 1$.

There is a unique 7-Sylow subgroup which is cyclic. If there is only one 3-Sylow subgroup then the group is isomorphic to C_{21} since C_{21} is the internal direct product of C_3 and C_7 (by the same argument as the previous exercise).

Now suppose there are seven 3-Sylow subgroups. They have trivial intersection because they are cyclic. So these give $2 \cdot 7 + 1 + 6$ elements accounted for so far. Fix a 3-Sylow K and a generator y . Take a generator x for the 7-Sylow H . Note that H is normal because it is the unique 7-Sylow. So now we know that HK is a group because $HK = KH$ since $hk = kk^{-1}hk$ and $k^{-1}hk \in H$ since H is normal in G . But this now gives us that $G \cong HK = \{x^i y^j : 0 \leq i \leq 6 \wedge 0 \leq j \leq 2\}$ so G is cyclic. Because H is normal, $xyx^{-1} \in H$ so it is of the form x^i for some $i \in [6]$. Note that $i = 0 \implies x = e$ which is not possible. Also $i \neq 1$ since this gives us the abelian case and $G \cong C_{21}$ again. Recall that y has order three, so

$$y^2 xy^{-2} = yx^i y^{-1} = (yxy^{-1})^i = x^{i^2} \implies x = y^3 xy^{-3} = yx^{i^2} y^{-1} = (yxy^{-1})^{i^2} = x^{i^3}$$

So now $x^1 = x^{i^3}$ so $i^3 \equiv 1 \bmod 7$. So 1, 2, 4 are the only values of i that work.

So now $xyx^{-1} \in \{x, x^2, x^4\}$ so there are at most three groups of order 21. The guess is that both the x^2 and x^4 case are isomorphic.

Wait until the next homework to find out !

Definition. (Group Actions)

Let G be a group and S a set. A **group action** is a map $G \times S \rightarrow S$ given by $(g, s) \mapsto g \cdot s = gs$.

The map should satisfy

- (i) $e \cdot s = s$ for all $s \in S$,
- (ii) $(g_1 g_2) \cdot s = g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot s)$

Examples:

- (a) Forget the group structure on G to obtain a set S and have the action be standard group product (but right multiplication would not work).
- (b) Forget the group structure on G to obtain a set S and have the action be right multiplication by the inverse of g .
- (c) Forget the group structure on G to obtain a set S and have the action be conjugation.

- (d) Forget the group structure on G to obtain a set S and
- (e) S is a compact polytope and G is its set of symmetries.
- (f) D_n acting on \mathbb{R}^2 as linear maps.

This gives us a preview into **group representations** where we will ask about $G \times V \rightarrow V$ where $v \mapsto gv$ is a linear transformation.

Definition. (Orbit and Stabilizer)

The **orbit** of s is $O(s) = \{gs : g \in G\}$ and the **stabilizer** of s is $\text{Stab}(s) = \{g \in G : gs = s\}$.

So when the group action is conjugation, $O(s) = C_s$ and $\text{Stab}(s) = Z_G(s)$ the centralizer of s .

Proposition. ()

$G_s \trianglelefteq G$ and as sets $O(s) \cong G/G_s$.

Corollary.

$|O(s)| = [G : G_s]$ which equals $\frac{|G|}{|G_s|}$ when G is finite.

Note that $O(s)$ may not be a group.

Clearly $e \in G_s$. Now suppose $a, b \in G_s$ then $abs = as = s$. $as = s \implies s = a^{-1}s$. $G_s \trianglelefteq G$ by definition.

Let $\gamma_s : G \rightarrow O(s)$ be given by the group action. So $\gamma_s(g) = g \cdot s$ is surjective. Now

$$g_1 \cdot s = g_2 \cdot s \iff g_2^{-1}g_1 \in G_s \iff g_1 \in g_s G_s \iff g_1 G_s = g_s G_s.$$

This gives a bijection $G/G_s \longleftrightarrow O(s)$.

Theorem. (General Class Equation)

$$|S| = \sum_{[s]} |O(s)|$$

Theorem. (First Sylow Theorem)

Let $|G| = g^r \cdot m$ with $r \geq 1$ and $p \nmid m$ then G contains a subgroup of order p^r .

Proof.

Step I: Let $S = \{M \in \mathcal{P}(G) : |M| = p^r\}$. Let G act on S by left multiplication so $g \cdot s = gs$.

First we claim that $p \nmid |s|$.

$$|S| = \binom{p^r \cdot m}{p^r}_a = \frac{p^r m (p^r m - 1) \cdots (p^r m - (p^r - 1))}{p^r (p^r - 1) \cdots (p^r - (p^r - 1))} = \frac{p^r m - i}{p^r - i}$$

where $i = p^j \cdot k$ with $j < r$ and $p \nmid k$.

$$\frac{p^r m - i}{p^r - i} = \frac{p^r m - p^j k}{p^r - p^j k} = \frac{p^r m - p^j k}{p^r - p^j k} =$$

THINK ABOUT AT HOME

From this claim we obtain some $s \in S$ such that $|O(s)|$ is prime to p . But we know

$$p^r \cdot m = |G| = |G_s| \cdot |O(s)| \implies p^r \mid |G_s|.$$

So $s = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_{p^r}\}$ and $G_s g_1 \subseteq s$ because G_s stabilizes the set s (we could have used any element in s). This gives us that $|G_s| \leq |s| = p^r$ but since $|G_s| \mid p^r$ we conclude that $|G_s| = p^r$.

You never need to remember the proof of this theorem. □

“You are one of the most on brand people I know” -Nikki

“Today we are doing a worksheet but if anyone comes let tell them theres a quiz going on.”

Theorem. (Strong Second Sylow)

Let G be a finite group with $p \mid |G|$. Let H be a p -Sylow subgroup of G . Let K be any subgroup of G . Then there exists an element $a \in G$ such that $K \cap aHa^{-1}$ is a p -Sylow subgroup of K .

The following theorem follows from the above.

Theorem. (Consequences of Strong Second Sylow)

Let G be a finite group. Any two p -Sylow subgroups of G are conjugate in G .

If $K \subseteq G$ is a subgroup that is a p -group (i.e. one whose order is a power of p), then K is contained in a p -Sylow subgroup of G .

Proof.

Let H_1, H_2 be p -Sylow subgroups of G . Let $|G| = p^r m$ where $p \nmid m$. Then $|H_1| = p^r = |H_2|$. Then take $K = H_1$ and the Second Sylow Theorem gives an element a such that $H_1 \cap aH_2a^{-1}$ is p -Sylow in H_1 . Note that $|H_2| = |aH_2a^{-1}|$. This means that $|H_1 \cap aH_2a^{-1}| = p^r$. This implies that $|H_1| = |H_1 \cap aH_2a^{-1}|$ Consequently, $H_1 = aH_2a^{-1}$ since $H_1 \supseteq H_1 \cap aH_2a^{-1}$.

Suppose $|G| = p^r m$ and $|K| = p^\ell$ for $\ell < r$. The only p -Sylow subgroups of K is K itself. Suppose that H is a p -Sylow subgroup, then from Strong Second Sylow $\exists g \in G$ such that gHg^{-1} is a p -Sylow in K . So $K \subseteq gHg^{-1}$.

Consider the group action $G \times G/H \rightarrow G/H$ given by left multiplication. This group action is transitive (has a single orbit) because $ba^{-1} \cdot aH \rightarrow bH$. Note that $\text{Stab}(aH) = aHa^{-1}$. Now take $g \in \text{Stab}(aH)$. Then

$$gaH = aH \iff a^{-1}gaH = H \iff g \in H \iff g = aha^{-1}$$

for some $h \in H$.

Consider the restriction of the group action to K . Then $\text{Stab}(aH) = K \cap aHa^{-1} \cap K$.

Let's use the fact that H is p -Sylow in G . So $|G/H|$ is prime to p . The size of the full set is the sum of the sizes of the orbits. There must exist some orbit $O(aH)$ which has cardinality prime to p . Now the Orbit Stabilizer Theorem tells us

$$|O(aH)| \cdot |\text{Stab}(aH)| = |K| \implies |O(aH)| = |aHa^{-1} \cap K| = |K|.$$

The powers of p that divide $|K|$ and $|aHa^{-1} \cap K|$ are the same. So K is a p -Sylow subgroup.

Be ready to work through 5 and 6 on the board next time.

Problem 5 on the worksheet Take $g \in \text{Stab}(s)$. Then $g \cdot s = gsg^{-1}$.

Theorem. (Third Sylow)

Suppose $|G| = p^r m$ with $p \nmid m$. The number of p -Sylow subgroups of G divides m and is congruent to 1 mod p .

Step I: Let S be the set of p -Sylow subgroups of G and consider the action of G on S by conjugation:

$$G \times S \rightarrow S, \quad (g, H) \mapsto gHg^{-1}.$$

Since the action is transitive (by the previous theorem), we get

$$|S| |\text{Stab}(H)| = |G|.$$

We show that $\text{Stab}(H) = N_G(H)$, and conclude that $|S|$ divides m .

$\text{Stab}(H) = N_G(H)$ by definition. Since this group action is transitive then $O(s) = S$ for $s \in S$. Now the Orbit Stabilizer Theorem gives $|S| |\text{Stab}(H)| = |G|$. This tells us that $|S| = \frac{|G|}{|N_G(H)|} = [G : N_G(H)]$. Since $[N_G(H) : H] \cdot [G : N_G(H)] = [G : H]$ we obtain that $|S|$ divides s . It may be useful to use $|S| = [G : N_G(H)]$.

Step II: Now fix a p -Sylow subgroup H and restrict the last action to an action $H \times S \rightarrow S$. If K is a p -Sylow subgroup of G , we show that $|O(K)| = 1 \iff K = H$, and otherwise $|O(K)|$ is divisible by p .

Suppose $H = K$ then for all $h \in H$, $hKh^{-1} = K \implies O(K) = K$. Now suppose $|O(K)| = 1$. Then $O(K) = K$ which gives $H \subseteq \text{Stab}(K) = N_G(K)$. Now $K \trianglelefteq N_G(K)$ which gives that K is p -Sylow in $N_G(K)$. Since H is also p -Sylow in $N_G(K)$ but there is a unique p -Sylow inside the normalizer by the Second Sylow Theorem, so $H = K$. This is a good trick to apply the second Sylow to the normalizer of K .

Now we conclude that $|S| \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, thus finishing the proof of Theorem the Third Sylow.

Now $|O(K)| > 1 \implies p \mid |O(K)|$ and by the Orbit Stabilizer theorem $|O(K)| \cdot |\text{Stab}(K)| = |H| = p^r$. So $|O(K)| = p^\ell$ for some $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$. We know that

$$|S| = \sum_{[K]} |O(K)| = |O(H)| + \sum_{[K] \neq [H]} |O(K)| \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

This completes the proof. □

Group Actions on Sets

As we have seen that classifying finite groups becomes increasingly hard. Classifying groups of order only 16 is very difficult. This leads us to a new approach. We will study groups by studying their normal subgroups and their quotients.

Definition. (Simple)

A group G is said to be **simple** if it contains no normal subgroups other than $\{e\}$ and G .

Examples:

- (i) Any group of prime order.
- (ii) Finite abelian groups if and only if it has prime order. This follows since if $p \mid |G|$, by Cauchy's Theorem, G contains an element of order p called x and $\langle x \rangle \trianglelefteq G$.
- (iii)

Exercise: Show that if G is non-abelian, $|G| < 60$, then G is not simple. There is a unique non-abelian group which is simple but we will.

Recall that we have shown that the center of a group is normal and group of order p^n has nontrivial center.

After removing groups of these orders we have

$$6, 10, 12, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57$$

Let p and q be primes with $p < q$.

Suppose G is a group of order $2p$.

Suppose G is order $p \cdot q$. Then the number of q -Sylows n_q is congruent to 1 mod q and divides p , p does not satisfy this since $p < q$ so then there is a unique q -Sylow (which is normal) so G cannot be simple.

Suppose G is order $p \cdot q^2$. If $c_q = 1$ then the unique q -Sylow is normal and G is not simple. Suppose $C_q = 1$ or $C_q = p^2$. Then $p^2(q-1)$ elements of G are of order q . Exactly p^2 elements are left. So there is a unique p -Sylow.

We are left with

$$24, 36, 40, 48, 56, 60$$

So $24 = 2^3 \cdot 3$. The number of 2-Sylows C_2 divides 3 and is congruent to 1 mod 2. We cannot have $C_2 = 3$ and $C_3 = 4$, so either $C_2 = 1$ or $C_3 = 1$. Each 2-Sylow has order eight.

Suppose $C_3 = 3$ and $C_2 = 4$. We can make a homomorphism to another group with a non-trivial kernel which will give a normal a subgroup of G . A group action $G \times S \rightarrow S$ induces a homomorphism $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(S)$.

Call the 2-Sylows $S = \{K_1, K_2, K_3\}$. We know by the Second Sylow Theorem these sets are conjugate. Let G act on S by conjugation. Then We obtain a map $\varphi : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(S) \cong S_3$. This

map is transitive, so $\ker(\varphi) \neq G$ and $\ker(\varphi) \neq (e)$ since φ cannot be injective. We conclude that $\ker(\varphi)$ is a nontrivial normal subgroup. We conclude that G is not simple.

We can eliminate 40 by seeing there is only 1 5-Sylow.

We can also eliminate 56 by seeing there is either $C_7 \in \{1, 8\}$. Because if there are 8 7-Sylows, then $8 \cdot 6 = 48$ elements of order 7. But this means that there is a unique 2-Sylow. So groups of order 56 are not simple.

Now we consider $|G| = 36 = 2^2 \cdot 3^2$. So $C_2 \in \{1, 3, 9\}$ and $C_3 \in \{1, 4\}$. First suppose $C_3 = 4$. Then put S to be the four 3-Sylows. Let G act on S by conjugation. This induces a map $\varphi : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(S)$. $\ker(\varphi) \neq G$ because elements of S are conjugate (the group action is transitive) and $|\text{Aut}(S)| = |S_4| = 24 < 36$ so φ cannot be injective.

For 48 we look at the 2-Sylows which are either 1 or 3 and the same argument as above suffices.

□

Simple Groups

Now we move on to the initial results of the important program: **the classification of finite simple groups**.

Definition. (Alternating Group)

Consider the homomorphism $\text{sgn} : S_n \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ defined by

$$f(x) = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j) \quad \text{sgn}(\pi)f(x) = \prod_{i < j} (x_{\pi(i)} - x_{\pi(j)})$$

Now we can use cycle notation to describe elements of S_3 for example $(123)(45) \in S_5$ written with disjoint cycles. Then

$$S_3 = \{e, (12), (13), (23), (123), (132)\}$$

Then,

$\pi \in S_n$	$\text{sgn}(\pi)$
e	$+1$
(12)	-1
(13)	-1
(23)	-1
(123)	$+1$
(132)	$+1$

The $\text{sgn}(\text{transposition}) = -1$.

Fact. (Permutation's are Products of Transpositions)

Any element of S_n is a product of transpositions. The number of such transpositions is invariant under automorphism.

Proof.

The first statement follows from inspection.

$$\pi = \prod_{i \in [\ell]} \tau_i \implies \operatorname{sgn}(\pi) = \prod_{i \in [\ell]} \operatorname{sgn}(\tau_i) = (-1)^\ell$$

□

Note that S_n is not simple since $\ker(\operatorname{sgn})$ gives a nontrivial normal subgroup.

Theorem. (Simplicity of A_n)
 A_n is simple for $n \geq 5$.

Proposition. (A_5 is Simple)

The group A_5 has order 60, is simple, and non-abelian. If $|G| = 60$ and is simple then $G \cong A_5$.

Proof.

Let $P \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq G$ and suppose P is a p -Sylow subgroup of H . We show that $P \trianglelefteq G$. So P is the unique p -Sylow in H . If $x \in H$, then $xPx^{-1} = P$ so we are done. Suppose $x \in G \setminus H$, then consider $xPx^{-1} \subseteq xHx^{-1} = H$, so now that xPx^{-1} has the same order as P , so it must be the unique p -Sylow.

Now if $|G| \in \{15, 20, 30\}$ then G has a unique 5-Sylow. This follows immediately from the Third Sylow for 15 and 20. Now from the homework we know that groups of order 30 contain a normal subgroup of order 15 isomorphic to C_{15} which is cyclic (so its center is the whole subgroup). Now the previous paragraph shows that $C_5 \trianglelefteq G$ since C_5 is the unique 5-Sylow in C_{15} .

Let G be a group of order 60. Then $\operatorname{Syl}_5 \in \{1, 6\}$ by the Third Sylow. Now suppose $\operatorname{Syl}_5 = 6$ (these are all cyclic), and G contains a nontrivial proper normal subgroup H . If $|H| \in \{5, 10, 15, 20, 30\}$ then H contains a normal 5-Sylow and by two paragraphs ago there is a unique 5-Sylow in G but we assumed this was not the case. So now $|H| \in \{2, 3, 4, 6, 12\}$.

Now suppose there exists an H of order 6 or 12. If $|H| = 6$, then H has a unique 3-Sylow. If $|H| = 12$ then H might have four 3-Sylows, if this is the case then there is a unique 2-Sylow which has order four. So now if $|H| = 6$, then there is a nontrivial proper normal subgroup H' with order in $\{2, 3, 4\}$.

Now consider the quotient G/H' which must have order 15, 20, or 30 by Lagrange's Theorem. Then by the argument above G/H' has a unique 5-Sylow which can be lifted to a subgroup K which is normal in G and contains a group of order 5. So $5 \mid |K|$.

The conclusion from all of this is that if $\operatorname{Syl}_5 = 6$ there is no such nontrivial, proper, normal subgroup in G . Checking that in A_5 it is the case that $\operatorname{Syl}_5 = 6$. □

Proposition. (There is a Unique Simple Group of Order 60)
Up to isomorphism, A_5 is the unique simple group of order 60.

Proof.

Suppose G is a simple group of order 60. We will show that G cannot have a subset $H \subset G$ such that $[H : G] < 5$. G is not simple so there cannot be subsets with index 1, 2 (since these subgroups

will be normal) since this does not divide 60. Suppose G has a subgroup of index 3 (resp. 4). Take $n \in \{3, 4\}$. Consider the group action given by left multiplication acting on G/H . Then the group action induces a homomorphism $h : G/H \rightarrow S_n$. This map cannot be trivial since the map is surjective. Now if $n < 5$, then $n! < 60$ so the map cannot be an injection.

Now suppose G has a subgroup H of index 5, show that G is isomorphic to A_5 . Use the same map as above to obtain a homomorphism $h : G \rightarrow S_5$, we know this map is injective (since it is not a trivial map and G is simple). Compose with the quotient map to obtain $G \rightarrow S_5 \rightarrow S_5/A_5$ and we want to show this is trivial. Since if everything in G is annihilated by this map, then the image of G is contained in A_5 . The size of the map of this kernel is at least 30, but it cannot be between 30 and 60 since G is simple (and the kernel is a normal subgroup). So, now we know that G must size 30, and so the composed map is trivial.

$$G \xrightarrow{\pi} S_5 \xrightarrow{\pi} S_5/A_5 \cong C_2$$

Figure 4: Composed Homomorphism

We know that $\text{Syl}_2 \in \{1, 3, 5, 15\}$. Suppose $\text{Syl}_2 \notin \{1, 3\}$. It cannot be one since then G would not be normal. Similarly, cannot be three since then we can induce a homomorphism by the group action of conjugation acting on the set of two Sylows into S_3 . We can also frame this in terms of cosets, since the orbit of this group action is in bijection with the cosets of the normalizer of a 2-Sylow. Now the same argument as above works to show $G \cong A_5$.

Now we need to rule out that $\text{Syl}_2 \neq 15$. If all the Note that there are at least $\text{Syl}_5 \geq 6$ and all elements in these groups have order five. It cannot be the case that all the 2-Sylows are disjoint since then we would have accounted for at least $4 \cdot 6 + 3 \cdot 15$ elements.

Let P and Q be 2-Sylows with nontrivial intersection. Consider $N_G(P \cap Q)$. $|P| = 4 = |Q|$ and $P, Q \subset N_G(P \cap Q)$.

FINISH AT HOME

□

Theorem. (A_n is simple for $n \geq 5$)

A_n is simple for $n \geq 5$ and is the unique simple group of this order.

Product of permutations $(132)(45)(1452) = (15)(23)$.

Conjugation in S_n : $\sigma(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_r) \sigma^{-1}$. For example $\sigma = (132)$ and $\tau = (14)(523)$ then $\sigma \tau \sigma^{-1} = (125)(34) = (34)(512) = (\sigma(1)\sigma(4))(\sigma(5)\sigma(2)\sigma(3))$. In general, $\sigma(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_r) \sigma^{-1} = (\sigma(i_1)\sigma(i_2) \cdots \sigma(i_r))$.

First we show that the product of two transpositions can be written as the product of two three cycles. $(i_1 i_2)(i_3 i_4) = (i_3 i_2 i_4)(i_1 i_3 i_2)$ if they have nothing in common. And if they have an element in common then $(i_1 i_2)(i_2 i_3) = (i_1 i_2 i_3)$ as a singleton product. Since A_n can be generated by even permutations, and even permutations are a product of an even number of transpositions. We can group these into pairs, which becomes tuples of three cycles. Three cycles are contained in A_n , so thus A_n is generated by three-cycles.

Now we show that three cycles are conjugate in S_n . Let $\sigma(x) = x'$. Note that $\sigma(abc)\sigma^{-1} = (a'b'c')$. Now pick $r, s \notin \{a, b, c\}$. Now $\sigma(rs)(abc)(rs)\sigma^{-1} = (a'b'c')$.

Suppose $N \trianglelefteq A_n$. We will show that $n = (e)$ or N contains a 3-cycle. Since N is finite, there is a nontrivial element $\sigma \in N$ that has maximal element with respect to number of fixed points. Suppose σ can be written as a product of disjoint transpositions. So $\sigma = \prod_{i=1}^t (a_i b_i)$ where $t \geq 2$ since $\sigma \in A_n$. Now we take $r \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $r \notin \{a_i b_i : i \in [t]\}$. Put $\tau = (a_1 b_1 r)$. Now show that the **commutator** $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} \sigma^{-1}$ lies in N since N is normal. In this case the commutator is not trivial. Then $\tau^{-1} = (a_1 r b_1)$ and $\sigma^{-1} = \sigma$ then we have

$$\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} \sigma^{-1} = \tau(\sigma(a_1) \sigma(r) \sigma(b_1)) = \tau(b_1 \sigma(r) a_1) = (a_1 r)(b_1 \sigma(r)).$$

So in our proof this forces r and $\sigma(r)$ to be in the set.

In the class proof we contradicted the maximality. □

Definition. (Normal Series)

Let G be a group. A **normal series** for G is a sequence of nested subgroups

$$G = G_0 \supseteq G_1 \cdots \supseteq G_r = (e).$$

Two normal series $\{G_i\}_{i \in [r]}$ and $\{H_j\}_{j \in [s]}$ are said to be **equivalent** provided that the collection of quotients $\{G_i/G_{i+1}\}$ is the same as the quotients $\{H_j/H_{j+1}\}$ up to isomorphism. In particular if each are distinct then $r = s$ is a necessary condition for equivalence.

Definition. (Composition Series)

A **composition series** for G is a normal series in which each quotient G_i/G_{i+1} is nontrivial and simple.

Theorem. (Jordan-Holder)

If G has a composition series, then any two composition series are equivalent.

Proposition. (Finite Groups Admit Composition Series)

If G is a finite group, then G has a composition series.

Proof.

Suppose G is finite. Suppose G has no composition series.

Consider all paths through the

If G is simple then we are done, since $(G, (e))$ is a composition series for G . We induct on the order of G . If $|G| = 1$ then G is simple and $((e))$ is a composition series. Now assume inductively that all groups with $|G| < k$ have a composition series. If G is not simple, then G has a maximal nontrivial normal subgroup N_1 . Then G/N_1 has order strictly less than G . By the inductive hypothesis G/N_1 has a composition series $(\overline{G_2}, \dots, \overline{G_r})$. The correspondence theorem lifts this sequence to a series (G_2, \dots, G_r) of subgroups in G . Lifting preserves normality. Then (G_1, G_2, \dots, G_r) is a composition series for G . □

Exercise: Find composition series for the following groups

-
- (i) S_3 . S_3 has the normal subgroup $T = \{e, \tau, \tau^2\}$. So then $(S_3, T, (e))$ is a composition series for S_3 .
 - (ii) D_4 . Put $N = \{e, x, x^2, x^3\}$ then $(D_4, N, \{e, x^2\}, (e))$ is a composition series. Any subgroup of index two is
 For any p -group, every composition series looks like $(G, C_p, \dots, C_p, (e))$. Any path through the subgroup lattice generates a p -group. We can also reverse N and $\{e, x^2\}$ to get a new composition series.A
 - (iii) Q the quaternions. Let $I = \{e, \pm i\}$ and define J, K similarly. Then $(Q, I, J, (e))$ is a composition series. The composition series look like $(Q, N_1, N_2, (e))$ where $N_1, N_2 \in \{I, J, K\}$ are distinct.
 - (iv) $C_3 \times C_3$. This is a simple group so $(C_3 \times C_3, (e), (e))$ is the only composition series.
 - (v) C_9 . This group is abelian, so every subgroup is normal. So the only composition series is $(C_9, \{e, x^3, x^6\}, (e))$.

I WAS SICK HERE

Definition. (Commutator)

Let G be a group with $x, y \in G$. Define the **commutator** of x and y as $[x, y] = xyx^{-1}y^{-1}$. Then $[x, y] = e \iff xy = yx$.

Definition. (Commutator Subgroup)

The **commutator subgroup** or (derived subgroup) of G is the subgroup of G generated by all commutators $[x, y]$ with $x, y \in G$. We denote this $G', G^{(1)}$, or $[G, G]$.

A subgroup generated by a set S is the

- (a) smallest subgroup of G containing S ,
- (b) intersection of all subgroups containing S , and
- (c) S^* where $*$ is the Kleene star operator.

Now we show that $G' \trianglelefteq G$. Take $g, x, y \in G$ and then $gxyx^{-1}y^{-1}g^{-1}g[x, y]g^{-1} = gxyg^{-1} = [gxyg^{-1}, gxyg^{-1}]$.

Now we compute G' for S_3, D_4, Q, D_5 .

- (a) $[S_3, S - 3] = \{e, x, x^2\}$
- (b) $[D_4, D_4] = \{e, x^2\}$
- (c) $[Q, Q] = \{\pm I_2\}$
- (d) $[D_5, D_5] = \{e, x, x^2, x^3\}$

Theorem. (Universal Property of Commutator Subgroup)

G/G' is abelian. Moreover if $\psi \in \text{Hom}(G, A)$ where A is abelian, then $G' \subseteq \ker(\psi)$ and there is a unique homomorphism $\bar{\psi} \in \text{Hom}(G/G', A)$ then the following diagram commutes.

DIAGRAM

So the commutator is the \subseteq -smallest $H \subseteq G$ such that G/H is abelian.

Take $[x], [y] \in G/G'$ and compute $[[x], [y]] = [x][y][x]^{-1}[y]^{-1} = [xyx^{-1}y^{-1}] = [e]$.

Definition. (Commutator Series)

Iteratively take commutators of G . The **derived series** or **commutator series** of G is

$$G = G^{(0)} \supseteq G^{(1)} \supseteq \dots$$

It might be that if we keep taking commutators then we eventually get (e) .

Definition. (Solvable)

G is said to be **solvable** if it admits a normal series in which every successive quotient is abelian. We will use this definition when we study Galois Theory.

Theorem. (Characterization of Solvability)

G is solvable when the commutator series is a normal series. So we eventually get (e) when we take successive commutators.

Proof.

If G is solvable then it has a normal series. By definition of solvable, $G^{(1)} \subseteq G_1$ and similarly, $G^{(k)} \subseteq G_k$. Eventually some k gives $G_k = (e)$ which shows the commutator series is a normal series.

Now for the other direction. □

Group Presentation

Definition. (Universal Property of Free Groups)

The **free group** on S (a set) is a group $f(S)$ together with an injection $\iota : S \hookrightarrow f(S)$ with the property that the following diagram commutes.

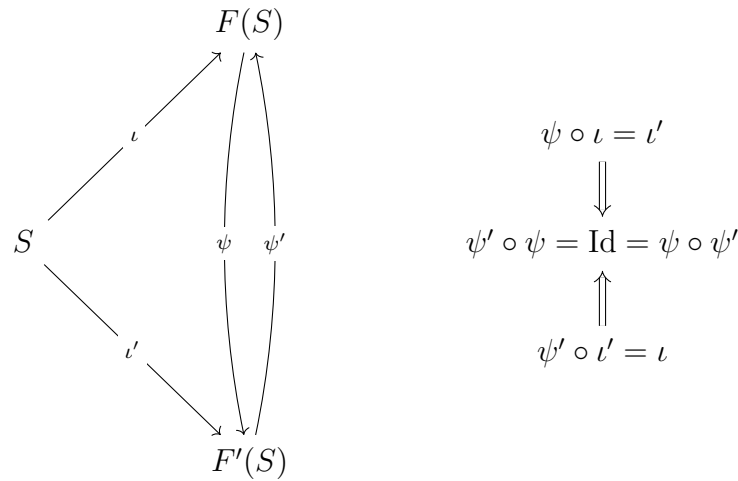
$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \xrightarrow{\iota} & F(S) \\ & \searrow \varphi & \searrow \psi \end{array}$$

493/notes/img/.img//free group universal.pdf

Figure 5: Universal property of free groups.

Furthermore ψ is unique.

Taking G to be $f'(S)$



So all that is left is to argue uniqueness of the map ψ .

Definition. (Construction of Free Group)

The free group on S is the set of all reduced words on S (where no cancellations are possible). Every word can be simplified to a unique reduced word. The free group $F(S) = S^*/\sim$ where $*$ is the Kleene star operator and the group product is given by concatenation where \sim is the equivalence relation that identifies words of the same reduced word.

Exercise: Show that in fact this gives a construction of the free group.

Let $\varphi: S \rightarrow G$ be a set-theoretic map. Any such $\psi \in \text{Hom}(S^*/\sim, G)$ is determined by φ on the coset representatives of $x \in S$.

For example $F(\{x, y\})$ maps surjectively onto D_n for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \cup \{\infty\}$.

Let $S = \{x, y\}$. Now take $N = N_{F(S)}(\langle x^n, y^2, xyxy^{-1} \rangle)$. Then $F(S)/N \cong D_n$.

Coxeter Todd Algorithm

SYMMETRY

We want to understand geometric symmetries. In \mathbb{R}^n these are isometries or rigid motions.

Definition. (Isometry)

A **rigid motion** or **isometry** is a map $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ that preserves distances.

One can check that every isometry is a bijection. So the set of isometries M_n on \mathbb{R}^n forms a group.

For $n = 1$, this group is $\{x \mapsto x + r, x \mapsto -x + r : r \in \mathbb{R}\}$. Let H be the set the set of translations on \mathbb{R} and K the set of reflections about any point in \mathbb{R} .

Note that H is isomorphic to $\langle \mathbb{R}, + \rangle$. Then K is isomorphic to C_2 .

So then K is normal in M_1 .

This gives us $\mathbb{R} \rtimes C_2$ and conjugation gives a map $C_2 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{R}, +)$.

Let M_1 be the set of reflections.

So $M_1/\mathbb{R} \cong C_2$. Any two subgroups of M_1 of order two are conjugate.

Now we should consider M_2 . The set of translations is a subset of M_2 that is isomorphic to $\langle \mathbb{R}^2, + \rangle$, or T the set of rotations. Now take \mathcal{O}_2 the set of isometries that fix the origin. Then $M_2/T \rtimes \mathcal{O}_2$. We can rotate by any $\theta \in \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$. The set of rotations in \mathcal{O}_2 has index two, so it is normal and its quotient is C_2 . So $\mathcal{O}_2 \cong \{\text{rotations fixing } 0\} \rtimes C_2$.

Proposition. (Isometries are Affine)

Every isometry that fixes the origin is linear in \mathbb{R}^n .

Proof.

Choose A an orthogonal matrix, so $A^T = A^{-1}$. A induces an isometry on \mathbb{R}^n , because the columns of A form an orthonormal basis of \mathbb{R}^n . This follows since A fixes the dot product, so A fixes distances too.

All isometries that fix the origin are induced by some orthonormal matrix. Let $L \in M_n$, an isometry. So $\|x\| = \|L(x)\| \implies \langle x, x \rangle = \langle L(x), L(x) \rangle$. Also $\|x - y\| = \|L(x) - L(y)\|$ which implies $\langle x - y, x - y \rangle = \langle L(x) - L(y), L(x) - L(y) \rangle$. Expanding this gives the equation $\langle x, y \rangle = \langle L(x), L(y) \rangle$. So now we know every isometry on \mathbb{R}^n preserves the dot product. Put $A = (L(e_1), \dots, L(e_n))$. Then the columns of A must be orthogonal since e_1, \dots, e_n are orthogonal. Take $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ write $x = \sum_{i \in [n]} a_i e_i$ and $L(x) = \sum_{i \in [n]} b_i L(e_i)$. Now apply A and A^T to x and we will get x .

To recap the set of translations T , we have $T \trianglelefteq M_n$ and $M_n/T \cong \mathcal{O}_n$.

Now take $A\mathcal{O}_2$. Suppose $\det(A) = 1$. Since A is angle preserving A must be a rotation and is thus given in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & -\cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

If instead $\det(A) = -1$. Then it must include a reflection so it is a reflection about the line. This is the reflection over the angle bisector of e_1 and Ae_1 .

Now take $\rho_\theta \in \text{SO}_2$. Then $r\rho_\theta^{-1} = \rho_{-\theta}$ where r is rotation about the x -axis.

Let t_α be the translation by $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Everything in O_2 is of the form ρ_θ or $\rho_\theta r$. Since $M_2 = T \rtimes O_2$ so we can write every element in the form $t_\alpha \rho_\theta r$.

$$(a) \quad \rho_\theta t_\alpha(x) = \rho_\theta(x + \alpha) = \rho_\theta(x) + \rho_\theta(\alpha) = \rho_\theta(x) t_{\rho_\theta(\alpha)}$$

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

The projection map $\pi_1 : M_2 \rightarrow O_2$ commutes with change of coordinates if the change of coordinates map is translation.

Find a b such that $t_b \cdot m t_b^{-1} = t_b \cdot t_a \rho_\theta \cdot t_{-b} = t_{a+b} t_{\rho_\theta(-b)} \rho_\theta = t_{a+b-\rho_\theta(b)} \rho_\theta = 0$

So we are going to solve for $\rho_\theta(b) - b = a$. We can check $\rho_\theta(b) - b$ is non-singular. Its determinant is $2(1 - \cos(\theta))$. So if $\theta > 0$ with $\theta \in \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$.

Now for elements of the form $t_a \rho_\theta r$ we can write them as $t_a \ell$ for some line ℓ . Then there is a (rotation) element in $\eta \in M_2$ whose conjugation gives the change of coordinates. So now $\eta^{-1}(\rho_\theta r)\eta = r$ and $\eta^{-1}t_a\eta = t_{a'}$ since the translations are normal in M_2 . This gives that

$$t_{a'} r \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = t_{a'} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ -y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a'_1 \\ a'_2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ -y \end{bmatrix} +$$

Then $y = \frac{a'_2}{2}$ and x is free.

Now we can ask

(a) What is the composite of two rotations (about two possibly different points)?

So what is $t_a \rho_\theta t_{a'} \rho_{\theta'} = t_{a+\rho_\theta(a')} \rho_{\theta+\theta'}$. This is a rotation around a point or a translation. This is a translations when $\theta + \theta'$ is zero in $\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$.

(b) What is the composite of two rotations and a glide? $t_a \rho_\theta r t_{a'} \rho_{\theta'} = t_a \rho_\theta t_{a'} r \rho_{\theta'} = t_{a+\rho_\theta(a')} + \rho_{-\theta'} r$. This is a glide. In either case it is a glide (since it is orientation reversing).

(c) What is the composite of two glides? Either a reflection or a translation.

Glides are orientation reversing and rotations and translations are orientation preserving. Recall we determine orientation by projecting to O_2 then taking the determinant.

Definition. (Discrete Group)

$\Gamma \subseteq M_2$ is said to be discrete if it does not contain arbitrarily small rotations or translations.

You might worry about why we did not impose any conditions on a glide. But the translation condition ensures that the product of a glide with itself is not arbitrarily small and also the product of two glides is not arbitrarily small.

We have $T \subseteq M_2 \rightarrow O_2$ So we can analyze a discrete Γ by considering $\Gamma \cap T$ or the image $\bar{\Gamma}$ under the quotient map.

So $\Gamma \cap T$ is a discrete subgroup of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Exercise: Describe all discrete subgroups of \mathbb{R}^2 .

The simplest thing is $(\vec{0})$. If we take an element generated by one element then it is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} . If you choose two directions well then you get a lattice. So the answer is \mathbb{Z}^2 .

Definition. (Wallpaper Pattern)

$$\begin{aligned} T &\rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow O_2 \\ \Gamma \cap T &\rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow \bar{\Gamma} \end{aligned}$$

Where there is containment. We want to understand $\Gamma \cap T$ and $\bar{\Gamma}$ separately.

Put $L \cong \Gamma \cap T$ then we have three possibilities for L ,

$$L = \begin{cases} (e) \\ \mathbb{Z} \\ \mathbb{Z}^2 \end{cases}$$

Proof.

Suppose $L \neq 0$. Then suppose $L \subseteq \ell$ for ℓ a line through the origin. Then we can choose an element \vec{v} of shortest length to zero. Then it must be that $L = \{m\vec{v} : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$.

Now suppose L is not contained on a line. Again we can choose a vector \vec{v}_1 of smallest length to the origin. Now there must be some vector \vec{v}_2 which is not contained in $\text{Span}(\vec{v}_1) = \ell$. Change coordinates so that ℓ is the x -axis. Pick \vec{v}_2 so that the height from the x -axis to \vec{v}_2 is minimized.

So we have found that L is quite simple, it is a lattice.

Now let's consider the other group $\bar{\Gamma}$. Recall that everything in M_2 is of two kinds, those which are orientation performing $t_a\rho_\theta$ and those that are orientation reversing $t_a\rho_\theta r$. The former are either translations or rotations and the latter are glides.

When we analyzed glides we noted that $\rho_\theta r$ is some reflection about a line and the glide $t_a\rho_\theta r$ is a glide about a line ℓ' parallel to ℓ . So the map $\Gamma \rightarrow \bar{\Gamma}$ takes rotations and translations to their rotational parts and it takes glides to reflections about the unique line ℓ which is parallel to the line ℓ' .

The image $\bar{\gamma}$ is called the point set of Γ . Since $\Gamma \subseteq M_2$ is discrete, $\bar{\Gamma}$ is discrete in O_2 . Let's consider what are the possibilities for $\bar{\Gamma}$. Translations are annihilated by the projection map. So rotations are taken to elements that generate groups isomorphic to C_n . And glides are taken to reflections.

Since $\text{SO}_2 \trianglelefteq O_2$ we have $\bar{\Gamma}/(\bar{\Gamma} \cap \text{SO}_2) \hookrightarrow O_2/\text{SO}_2 \cong \{\pm 1\}$. So $\bar{\Gamma} \cap \text{SO}_2$ is finite and semidirect product rules show that $\bar{\Gamma}$ must be C_n or D_n .

M_2 acts on T by conjugation. O_2 acts on T by $\rho t_a \rho^{-1} = t_{\rho(a)}$ and in the same way $\bar{\Gamma}$ acts on L .

Now let's put all this information together to consider what are the possible forms of Γ . When $L = \mathbb{Z}$, this will require some work. Meaning, we want to study (classify¹) Γ such that $L \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$.

¹Maybe this is too much at this point.

Definition. (Crystallographic Restriction)

$\bar{\Gamma} \cong C_2$ or D_n then $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$.

Proof.

Pick some nontrivial element $a \in L$ of smallest possible length. If $\bar{\Gamma} \subseteq D_n$ then $\rho_\theta \in \bar{\Gamma}$ where $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{n}$. This prevents θ from being very small. If $\theta < \pi/3$ then there is an element $b \in L$ such that $b - a$ is shorter than a . This restricts to $n \leq 6$. Now let's eliminate $n = 5$.

If we could rotate a about a pentagon then we can obtain an element shorter than a , namely considering $a + \rho_{2\pi/3}a$.

If Γ is the isometry group of a (proper ie not squares) rectangular lattice then we can only rotate by multiples of π on points in the lattice or on the midpoints of the rectangles. But we can also reflect about many lines, so the point group is D_2 .

If Γ is the isometry group of a square lattice, then we can rotate by $\frac{\pi}{2}$ and this makes the point group D_4 .

The point set is

- (a) C_1
- (b) C_2
- (c) C_3
- (d) C_4
- (e) C_6
- (f) D_1
- (g) D_1 There is a glide.
- (h) D_1
- (i) D_2
- (j) D_2 rotation about the middle of a rectangle, there is also a glide.
- (k) D_2
- (l) D_2
- (m)
- (n)
- (o)
- (p)
- (q)

Theorem. These 17 wallpaper patterns give all possible isomorphism classes of discrete subgroups of M_2 with L isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^2 . There are several of these groups with the same pointset. Why is that the case ?

Definition. (Exact Sequence)

Let G_0, G_1, \dots be groups with maps

$$\cdots \rightarrow G_0 \rightarrow G_1 \rightarrow G_2 \rightarrow G_3 \rightarrow \cdots$$

The sequence is said to be **exact** at G_i if $\text{Im}(\phi_{i-1}) = \ker(\phi_i)$.

Definition. (Short Exact Sequence)

A **short exact sequence** is an exact sequence of the form

$$1 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow K \rightarrow 1.$$

So $\ker(\varphi) = (1)$ and so φ is injective. And $\text{Im}(\psi) = K$, so ψ surjective. Exactness in the middle means $\text{Im}(\varphi) = \ker(\psi)$.

So we have a map $\psi : G \rightarrow K$ with $\ker \psi = \text{Im}(\varphi) = \varphi(H)$. The first isomorphism theorem says that $G/\varphi(H) \cong K$. So now we see that every short exact sequence is of the following form: take $N \trianglelefteq G$ then $1 \rightarrow N \rightarrow G \rightarrow G/N \rightarrow 1$.

Now here's what's interesting. Suppose you are given two groups H, K (one for each end). How many ways are there for $1 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow K \rightarrow 1$ to be short exact. In general this is quite hard to answer.

We can always take $G = H \times K$. We can also take $G = H \rtimes_{\varphi} K$ for any $K \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$. But these are not the only ways.

Let $H = C_2 = K$. We want $1 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow G \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow 1$ to be short exact. Then G must have size four, and there are only two groups of this order. In fact both of these possibilities work. But note that C_4 is not a semidirect product. This follows since there is only one map $C_2 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_2)$ so every semidirect product $C_2 \rtimes C_2 \cong C_2 \times C_2$.

Exercise: Let $H = C_4$ and $K = C_2$.

Using our short exact sequences we will analyze all possible Γ .

To recall we have the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow T \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow O_2 \rightarrow 1.$$

Now taking intersections of each of these groups with a discrete group $\Gamma \subseteq M_2$ gives a new short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow \bar{\Gamma} \rightarrow 1.$$

And we found the point group or $\bar{\Gamma}$ is isomorphic to one of C_n or D_n for $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$.

This motivates the following problem.

Problem. (Extension Problem for Groups)

Given H, K , classify G such that the following sequence is exact:

$$1 \rightarrow H \rightarrow G \rightarrow K \rightarrow 1.$$

We will identify H with its image in G (which is normal in G). Now $G/H \cong K$ by the First Isomorphism Theorem. So this is equivalent to (given H and K groups) find a G such that $H \trianglelefteq G$ and $G/H \cong K$.

This is a horribly difficult problem. It is basically unsolvable.

Recall that there are two easy ways to find such a G given an H and K . For any $\Theta : K \rightarrow \text{Aut}(H)$ then $G = H \rtimes_{\Theta} K$ works.

Definition. (Split Exact Sequence)

The map

$$1 \rightarrow C_4 \rightarrow C_4 \times C_2 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow 1$$

is split because you can always lift C_2 to a group isomorphic to C_2 in $C_4 \times C_2$ since there are three elements of order two in $C_4 \times C_2$ and only one in C_2 .

$$1 \rightarrow C_4 \rightarrow C_8 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow 1$$

is not split since C_8 contains an element of order eight and $C_4 \rtimes_{\phi} C_2$ never has an element of order eight. Alternatively, there is a unique cyclic group of order four inside C_8 , so there is no complement inside of C_8 isomorphic to C_4 which is different than the obvious one.

$$1 \rightarrow C_4 \rightarrow D_4 \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow 1$$

is split because $D_4 \cong C_4 \rtimes C_2$. So this sequence is exact for the standard maps. But the sequence is exact for any maps since any reflection together with a rotation generates D_4 because there is only one choice for C_4 inside of D_4 .

$$1 \rightarrow C_4 \rightarrow Q \rightarrow C_2 \rightarrow 1$$

is not split because any subgroup of order four contains $\{\pm 1\}$, so there is no way to find a complement.

We don't need to consider $(C_2)^3$ since it has no element of order four.

Theorem. (Classification of Wallpaper Groups)

We start by considering the cases $C_4 = \{e, \rho_{\pi/2}, \rho_{\pi}, \rho_{3\pi/2}\}$ and $D_4 = \langle C_4, \gamma \rangle$. We can look at what restriction having $\bar{\Gamma} = C_4$ places on Γ . This forces the basis elements of the lattice to be orthogonal and the same magnitude. The only thing that can change now is scaling the lattice basis, but this does not affect the group structure, so we are done. This group is $\mathbb{Z}^2 \times C_4$.

More formally, consider a vector of minimal magnitude v_1 then C_4 acts on it and we get a $v_2 = \rho_{\pi/2}v_1$. Then we get $v_1 + v_2$ and its rotations will complete the lattice. Assume there is a w which is not generated by v_1 and v_2 , then we can find a $w - av_1 - bv_2$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ which lies in the convex hull of $0, v_1, v_2, v_1 + v_2$ which contradicts our minimality. This tells us that L is a square lattice.

$$\rho_{\pi/2}\mathbb{Z}^2\rho_{3\pi/2} = \gamma\mathbb{Z}^2 + 1$$

Why does $\bar{\Gamma}$ act on L . It follows since L is abelian, so we can lift an element of $\bar{\Gamma}$ to Γ and then the conjugation action will have the L portions cancel.

We know the map $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow \bar{\Gamma} \rightarrow 1$ is split because $\rho_{\pi/2}$ can be lifted to an element in M_2 which is a rotation by $\pi/2$ about some x .

So $\Gamma \cong \mathbb{Z}^2 \rtimes C_4$. So then the action is given by $e_1 \mapsto e_2$ and $e_2 \mapsto -e_1$.

Now lets consider $\bar{\Gamma} = D_4$. The element r , reflection across the standard axis will lift to an element t_ar and we have $(t_ar)^2 = t_ar t_ar = t_{a'} t_{r(a')} = t_{a+r(a)}$ So $a + r(a) \in L$.

Furthermore, $(t_ar\rho)^2 = t_{a+r\rho(a)} \in L$. So if $a = (p, q)$ then $r(a) = (p, -q)$ and $r\rho(a) = (-q, -p)$ and their sums like $(2p, 0), (p - q, p - q)$ are in L . So this leaves us with two possibilities, $(p, q) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ or $(p, q) \in \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) + \mathbb{Z}^2$. The first case corresponds to the semidirect product and a split exact sequence. The latter case gives an exact sequence that is not split.

GROUP REPRESENTATIONS

We now turn to study group actions where the set S is a vector space and the group acts on S as a linear transformation on S .

Definition. (Group Representation)

Let G be a finite group and V a finite dimensional vector space over a field k ($= \mathbb{C}$). A **representation** of G on V is an action of G on V $G \times V \rightarrow V$ such that every element $g \in G$ acts on V as a linear transformation $\rho_g : V \rightarrow V$.

We can also think of a representation as a map $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ since a group action is a homomorphism $G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$.

If we pick a basis v_1, \dots, v_n for V , then $\text{GL}(V) \cong \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$. So any representation is a map $\rho \in \text{Hom}(G, \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}))$. Choosing a different basis leads to a map which is conjugate to ρ .

Examples:

- (a) Trivial representation. Let $V = \mathbb{C}$ Then $\text{GL}(V) \cong \text{GL}_1(\mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}^\times$.
- (b) $D_n \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})$. The representation sends $x \mapsto \rho_{2\pi/n}$ rotation by $2\pi/n$ and $y \mapsto r$ reflection about the x -axis. As a special case we have $D_3 \cong S_3$ which gives a standard representation of S_3 .
- (c) For two representations $\rho \in \text{Hom}(G, \text{GL}(V)), \tau \in \text{Hom}(G, \text{GL}(W))$ we can produce a new representation $\rho \oplus \tau$ the direct sum which acts on $V \oplus W$.
- (d) For S_3 we have the $\text{sgn} : S_3 \rightarrow \{\pm 1\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^\times$ representation.

Can you have a representation of S_3 on the cube roots of unity? No since in this case $xyx^{-1} = x \neq x^{-1}$. So the subgroup of rotations in S_3 have a representations on the cube roots of unity

Theorem. (Representations of S_3)

Any representation of S_3 is a direct sum of some number of copies of (1) trivial, (2), sgn , and (3) standard representations.

Exercise: Figure out how to get the permutation representation from these.

Definition. (Invariance & Complements)

Let G be a group and (ρ, V) a representation of G . Then a subrepresentation of (ρ, V) is a subspace $W \subseteq V$ that is G -invariant, meaning $\rho_g W \subseteq W$ for all $g \in G$. G is said to be irreducible if its only G -invariant subspaces are $0, V$.

It is natural to ask whether W has a G -invariant complement (a U such that $V \cong U \oplus W$).

Theorem. (Direct sums of representations)

If G has a representation (ρ, V) and $W \subseteq V$ is G -invariant, then W admits a G -invariant complement. Meaning, $\exists W' \subseteq V$ which is G -stable such that

$$V = W \oplus W'$$

Example: Fix $G = C_2 = \{e, g\}$ and $V = \mathbb{C}^2$. Then

$$g \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y \\ x \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that the lines $\langle(1, 1)\rangle, \langle(1, -1)\rangle$ are G -invariant. This gives us two subrepresentations on sub vector spaces $W, W' \subseteq V$ whose direct sum is \mathbb{C}^2 .

Definition. (Isomorphism of Representations)

Two representations are isomorphic

The number of irreducible representations on a group G is equal to the number of conjugacy classes of G .

Now let's consider the action of C_3 on $V = \mathbb{C}^3$ where

$$g \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z \\ x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

This representation is not irreducible. We want to find three lines ℓ_1, ℓ_2, ℓ_3 such that $V = \ell_1 \oplus \ell_2 \oplus \ell_3$ such that each ℓ_i is G -stable. So we are looking for eigenvectors whose span is ℓ_i .

So

$$g = \begin{bmatrix} & 1 & \\ & & 1 \\ 1 & & \end{bmatrix}$$

So the characteristic polynomial is $1 - \lambda^3$. So the eigenvalues are exactly the cube roots of unity

$1, \omega, \omega^2$. So the eigenvectors are $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \omega \\ \omega^2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \omega^2 \\ \omega \end{bmatrix}$ and its corresponding eigenvalues are $1, \omega^2, \omega$.

So the operator g is diagonalizable. Recall that matrices which commute are simultaneously diagonalizable.

Now $C_3 \subseteq S_3$ so we can ask how does S_3 act on \mathbb{C}^3 . So now $\tau \in S_3$ has eigenvectors $e_3, (1, 1, 0), (1, -1, 0)$.

The trivial representation of S_3 restricts to C_3 as the trivial representation. The sign representation of S_3 restricts to C_3 as the trivial representation. The standard representation of S_3 restricts to C_3 as the trivial representation.

Consider the homomorphism $\chi : C_3 \rightarrow \{1, \omega, \omega^2\}$ then the representation of S_3 restricted to S_3 becomes $1 \oplus \chi^2 \oplus \chi$.

Note that $(1, 1, 1)$ is fixed by everything in S_3 , so the representation. So ℓ_1 is an invariant subspace under the S_3 -action. Now counting dimensions (and that we only have one copy of 1 below) it must be the standard representation. So the standard representation restricted to C_3 becomes $\chi^2 \oplus \chi$. The eigenvalues of $\rho_{2\pi/3}$ are ω, ω^2 .

Invariant Complements

Suppose $W \subseteq V$ are vector spaces and $W' \subseteq V$ is a complement of W , so $V = W \oplus W'$. We have a projection map $\pi_1 : V \rightarrow W \subseteq V$ which projects onto W .

Definition. (Projection)

A **projection** operator on V is a linear map $P : V \rightarrow V$ such that $P^2 = P$.

Exercise: Every projection operator on V induces a direct sum decomposition. $V = PV \oplus \ker P$, this works since any map in $\text{Hom}(V, V)$ has trivial intersection of image and kernel. So $V = E_1 \oplus E_0$ where E_1 is the 1-eigenspace of P and E_0 is the 0-eigenspace of P . Also $\text{Id} = P + (\text{Id} - P)$, so then $V = \text{Im}(P) \oplus \text{Im}(\text{Id} - P)$. So now $v = \text{Id } v = (P + \text{Id} - P)v = Pv + (\text{Id} - P)v$.

Now suppose $x \in \text{Im}(P) \cap \text{Im}(\text{Id} - P)$, so $x = Py = (I - P)z$ and applying P to this shows that the x is trivial.

Theorem. (Maschke's Theorem)

Let G be a finite group and (ρ, V) a finite dimensional representation of G . Let $W \subseteq V$ be a G -invariant subspace. Then $\exists W' \subseteq V$ such that W' is G -invariant and $V = W \oplus W'$.

Corollary

Every finite dimensional representation of G is a direct sum of irreducible representations.

Note that this theorem is false in characteristic p where $p \mid |G|$ since you cannot divide by $|G|$.

Proof.

Pick some complement W_1 for $W \subseteq V$ such that $V = W \oplus W_1$. Let $P_0 : V \rightarrow W$ be the projection to W (along W_1). Now we use a standard technique called **averaging over the group**. Now put

$$P = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ P_0 \circ \rho(g)^{-1}$$

Then P is G -invariant. It is enough to check that

- (a) $P \circ \rho(g) = \rho(g) \circ P$ for all $g \in G$,
- (b) $\text{Im}(P) \subseteq W$,
- (c) $w \in W \implies P(w) = w$, and
- (d) $W' = \text{Im}(\text{Id} - P)$ is G -invariant.

(a)

We want to show that $\rho(h)P\rho(g)^{-1} = P$

$$\rho(h) \left(\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ P_0 \circ \rho(g)^{-1} \right) \rho(h)^{-1} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(gh) \circ P_0 \circ \rho(gh)^{-1} = P$$

(b)

Take $v \in V$ so

$$Pv = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ P_0 \circ \rho(g)^{-1}v = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ P_0 v' = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g)w' = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} w = w$$

for some $v' \in V$ and $w', w \in W$.

(c)

Take $w \in W$, then

$$Pw = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ P_0 \circ \rho(g)^{-1}w = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g) \circ \rho(g)^{-1}w = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} w = w$$

(d)

Let $W' = \text{Im}(\text{Id} - P)$. $w' \in W'$ is of the form $(I - p)v$ for $v \in V$.

$$\rho(g)w' = \rho(g)(\text{Id} - p)v = (\text{Id} - P)\rho(g)v$$

$\rho(g)$ commutes with $(\text{Id} - P)$ since it commutes with $\rho(g)$ and Id .

Definition. (Isomorphic Representations)

If (ρ, V) and (ρ', V') are two representations of V then they are said to be **isomorphic** if there exists a linear isomorphism $L : V \rightarrow V'$ that commutes with the G -actions.

Definition. (Character)

Let (ρ, V) be a G -representation, the **character** of ρ denoted χ_ρ is the function $\chi_\rho : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined on

$$\chi_\rho(g) = \text{Tr}(\rho(g)).$$

Note that if $(\rho, V) \cong (\rho', V')$ then $\chi_\rho = \chi_{\rho'}$.

Theorem. (A)

For any two representations of (ρ, V) and (ρ', V') of G we have

$$(\rho, V) \cong (\rho', V') \iff \chi_\rho = \chi_{\rho'}$$

Theorem. (B)

The number of irreducible representations of G (up to isomorphism) is equal to the number of conjugacy classes in G .

	e	x	x^2	y	xy	x^2y
χ_{Id}	1	1	1	1	1	1
χ_{sgn}	1	1	1	-1	-1	-1
χ_{std}	2	-1	-1	0	0	0

x and x^2 are conjugate in the group, so their columns will be the same. The columns of the character table are orthogonal. The rows are also orthogonal (under the Hermitian product).²

χ_ρ is constant on conjugacy classes since the trace is not affected by conjugation by an invertible matrix. So characters are so called **class functions**.

This agrees with the character of the representation ψ of S_3 acting on \mathbb{C}^3 . Which has character $\chi_\psi(e) = 3$, $\chi_\psi([x]) = 0$, $\chi_\psi([y]) = 1$ which agrees with $\chi_{\text{Id}} + \chi_{\text{std}}$ which agrees with the fact that $\chi_\psi \cong \chi_{\text{Id}} \oplus \chi_{\text{std}}$.

Character Tables for Small Groups

Note that the set of one dimensional characters forms a group! Remember to use the Hermitian inner product when computing orthogonality of columns and rows.

$$G = (e)$$

	e
χ_1	1

$$G = C_2$$

	e	x
χ_1	1	1
χ_2	1	-1

$$G = C_3$$

	e	x	x^2
χ_1	1	1	1
χ_2	1	ω	ω^2
χ_2^2	1	ω^2	ω

The standard representation is the sum of χ_2 and χ_2^2 since $\omega + \omega^2 = -1$

$$G = C_4$$

	e	x	x^2	x^3
	1	1	1	1
	1	i	-1	-i
	1	-1	1	-i
	1	-i	1	i

$$G = C_2 \times C_2$$

	e	(e, x)	(x, e)	(x, x)
1	1	1	1	1
χ	1	-1	-1	1
χ^2	1	-1	1	-1
χ^3	1	1	-1	-1

$G = D_4$

²“Come on you guys learned this in geometry, I have to send you back to highschool”

e	$[x]$	$[x^2]$	$[y]$	$[yx]$
1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	-1	-1

Bilinear & Sesquilinear Maps

Definition. (Inner Product)

Recall that an inner product space is finite dimensional real vector space V together with a map $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

- (i) $\forall v_1, v_2, w_1 \in V \langle v_1 + v_2, w_1 \rangle = \langle v_1, w_1 \rangle + \langle v_2, w_1 \rangle$ and $\langle cv_1, w_1 \rangle = c\langle v, w \rangle$ (bilinearity)
- (ii) $\forall v, w \in V \langle v, w \rangle = \langle w, v \rangle$ (symmetric)
- (iii) $\forall v \in V$ such that $v \neq \vec{0} \langle v, v \rangle > 0$ (positive definiteness)

Theorem. (Graham Schmidt Process)

If V is an inner product space, then V admits an orthonormal basis v_1, \dots, v_n meaning $\langle v_i, v_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$. Furthermore, if $W \subseteq V$ is a subspace then $W^\perp = \{v \in V : \langle v, w \rangle = 0 \forall w \in W\}$ and then $V = W \oplus W^\perp$.

Proof.

Take some basis of V , then put $u_1 = \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|}$ we can do this by total positivity. Then put $u_2 = \frac{v_2 - \langle v_2, u_1 \rangle u_1}{\|v_2 - \langle v_2, u_1 \rangle u_1\|}$ continuing like so gives an orthonormal basis.

Now let $W \subseteq V$ be a subspace. Check that W^\perp is a subspace. Furthermore, $W \cap W^\perp = \{\vec{0}\}$ by total positivity. W inherits an inner product structure from V . Thus we can choose an orthonormal basis u_1, \dots, u_r for W . Now define the projection map $P : V \rightarrow W$ to be $P(v) = \sum_{i \in [r]} \langle v, u_i \rangle u_i$. Then P is in fact a projection since $\text{Im}(P) = W$ since $P(u_i) = u_i$ for all $i \in [r]$. Then by definition $\ker(P) = W^\perp$. This implies that $V = W \oplus W^\perp$. \square

Now we want to extend this theory to Complex Vector Spaces. What goes wrong is total positivity. We might want that $\langle v, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ but then $\langle iv, iv \rangle = i^2 \langle v, v \rangle = -\langle v, v \rangle$. So there is no way to construct a bilinear form on V which is symmetric and positive definite.

To remedy this we conjugate one argument. This makes us lose symmetry and linearity.

Definition. (Hermitian Form)

A **Hermitian form** on V is a map $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying

- (a) $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is linear in the first slot and conjugate linear in the second (sesquilinearity)
- (b) $\langle v, w \rangle = \overline{\langle w, v \rangle}$ (Hermitian symmetric)
- (c) $\langle v, v \rangle > 0$ if $v \neq \vec{0}$.

By Hermitian symmetry, $\langle v, v \rangle$ must be real (so the third property is well defined). *Proof.*

Think through the proof at home. \square

Theorem. ()

Let G be a finite group and V a \mathbb{C} -vector space. Then for any finite dimensional representation (ρ, V) of G there exists a G -invariant Hermitian form on V . Meaning, if $v, w \in V$ then

$$\langle \rho(g)v, \rho(g)w \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle$$

$$\forall v, w \in V.$$

We can take a basis for V , this induces an isomorphism to \mathbb{C}^n . Then the standard Hermitian form on \mathbb{C}^n induces an inner product $\langle v, w \rangle$ on V . Now averaging over the group gives what we want

Theorem. ()

Let G be a group and (ρ, V) a G -representation. If $W \subseteq V$ is a G -invariant subspace then W admits a G -invariant complement.

Let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ be a G -invariant Hermitian form on V . Let W^\perp be the orthogonal complement to W so $W^\perp \oplus W = V$.

Now we need to check that $\forall u \in W^\perp$ then $\rho_g(u) \in W^\perp$. This suffices since $\langle \rho_g u, w \rangle = \langle \rho_g u, \rho_g \rho_{g^{-1}} w \rangle = \langle u, \rho_{g^{-1}} w \rangle = 0$ for all $w \in W$.