

5th basic algebra

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permutations

k -cycle

transposition

Sign (Sgn)

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Contents

S be a finite nonempty set of n elements.

A permutation of S is one-one function from S onto S .

$$\begin{matrix} \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\} \\ \underline{\{1, 2, \dots, n\}} \end{matrix} \quad \text{permutation} \quad \sigma \text{ at } j \Rightarrow \sigma(j)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \text{composition of } \tau \text{ followed by } \sigma \\ \sigma \circ \tau \quad \rightarrow \quad \sigma(\tau(j)) = \underline{\sigma(\tau(j))} \\ \uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{f.g.} \end{matrix}$$

composition is associative. $\underline{\rho(\sigma\tau)} = (\rho\sigma)\tau$
 $\rho(\sigma(\tau(j)))$ product.

identity permutation: $I \quad \sigma\sigma^{-1} = \sigma^{-1}\sigma = I$

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 3 & 5 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \sigma^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 4 & 5 & 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$2 \leq k \leq n$ cycles.

A k -circle is a permutation σ that fixes each element in some subset of $n-k$ elements and moves the remaining elements c_1, \dots, c_k .

according to $\sigma(c_1) = c_2, \sigma(c_2) = c_3, \dots, \sigma(c_{k-1}) = c_k, \sigma(c_k) = c_1$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad 3\text{-circle.} \quad \sigma = (c_1 \ c_2 \ \dots \ c_k) \Rightarrow \sigma = (2 \ 3 \ 5), (5 \ 2 \ 3), (3 \ 5 \ 2)$$

cycles.

A system of circles is said to be disjoint if the sets that each of them moves are disjoint in pairs.

$(2 \ 3 \ 5), (1 \ 4)$ are disjoint. σ, τ .

$(2 \ 3 \ 5), (1 \ 3)$ are not Any two disjoint circles σ and τ .
commute: $\underline{\sigma\tau = \tau\sigma}$.

proposition: Any permutation σ of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is a product of disjoint cycles
the individual cycles are unique.

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The individual cycles are unique.

$$\begin{array}{c} (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5) = (2 \ 3 \ 5)(1 \ 4) = \cancel{(2 \ 5)} \cancel{(2 \ 3)} (1 \ 4) \\ (4 \ 3 \ 5 \ 1 \ 2) \quad \uparrow \quad \Delta \quad \cancel{(2 \ 3 \ 5)} \cancel{(2 \ 3)} \Rightarrow \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \end{array} \quad \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 1 & 5 & 3 & 4 & 2 \end{matrix} \leftarrow \textcircled{2}$$

proof: existence. $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. We show that any σ is the disjoint product of cycles in such a way that no cycle moves an element j unless σ moves j .

induction: Suppose σ fixes the elements in the subset T of n elements of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ with $r < n$.

Let j be an element not in T . So that $\sigma(j) \neq j$.

Choose k as small as possible so that some element is repeated among $j, \sigma(j), \sigma^2(j), \dots, \sigma^k(j)$

This means $\sigma^l(j) = \sigma^k(j)$ for some l , $0 \leq l \leq k$.

$$\sigma^{k-l}(j) = j$$

We obtain a contradiction to the minimality of k unless $k = k - l$.

$$\sigma^k(j) = j.$$

We may thus form the k -cycle: $r = (j, \sigma(j), \sigma^2(j), \dots, \sigma^{k-1}(j))$.

The permutation $r^{-1}\sigma$ fixes $r+k$ elements of $T \cup U$, where V is the set of element $j, \sigma(j), \sigma^2(j), \dots, \sigma^{k-1}(j)$.

By the inductive hypothesis, $r^{-1}\sigma$ is the product $t_1 \cdots t_p$ of disjoint cycles that moves only elements not in $T \cup U$.

Since r moves only the element in V , r is disjoint from each of t_1, \dots, t_p .

$r = \underbrace{\sigma}_{t_1} t_1 \cdots t_p$ provides the required decomposition of σ .

uniqueness:

each element j generates a k -cycle C_j for some $k \geq 1$ depending on j .

If we have two decompositions as in the proposition.

then the cycle within each decomposition that contains j must be C_j .

then the cycle within each decomposition that contains j must be C_j . Hence the cycles in the two decompositions must match. \square .

A 2-cycle is often called a transposition.

Corollary: Any k -cycle σ permuting $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is a product of $k-1$ transpositions if $k > 1$.

Therefore any permutation τ of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ is a product of transpositions.

$$\text{proof: } (C_1 C_2 \dots C_{k-1} C_k) = (C_1 C_k)(C_1 C_{k-1}) \dots (C_1 C_2) \quad \square$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$

$$\prod_{1 \leq j \leq k \leq n} (\sigma(k) - \sigma(j)).$$

$$\prod_{1 \leq j \leq k \leq n} (\sigma(k) - \sigma(j)).$$

If (r, s) is any pair of integers with $1 \leq r < s \leq n$. $s-r$ appears once and only once as a factor of first product.

Therefore the first product is independent of τ . $\prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} (k-j)$.

each factor of the second product is ± 1 times the corresponding factor of the first product.

$$\prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} (\sigma(k) - \sigma(j)) = (\text{sgn } \tau) \prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} (k-j).$$

± 1
sign of permutation τ .



Lemma. Let τ be a permutation of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Let $(a b)$ be a transposition and form the product $\sigma(a b)$, $\text{sgn}(\sigma(a b)) = -\text{sgn } \tau$.

proof: For the pairs (j, k) with $j < k$, we are to compare $\sigma(k) - \sigma(j)$ with $\tau(a b)k - \tau(a b)j$ we assume $a < b$. 5 cases.

case 1. neither j nor k equals a and b .

$$\sigma(a, b)k - \sigma(a, b)j = \sigma(k) - \sigma(j).$$

Thus (j, k) . can be ignored.

case 2. one of j, k equals a and b .

$(a, t) (t, b)$ with $a < t < b$.

contribute $(\sigma(t) - \sigma(a)), (\sigma(b) - \sigma(t))$. to σ .

contribute $(\sigma(t) - \sigma(b)), (\sigma(a) - \sigma(t))$ to $\sigma(a, b)$

$$(\sigma(t) - \sigma(a))(\sigma(b) - \sigma(t)) = (\sigma(t) - \sigma(b))(\sigma(a) - \sigma(t))$$

Thus can be ignored

case 3 continue.

$(a, t) (b, t)$ with $a < b < t$.

contribute $(\sigma(t) - \sigma(a)), (\sigma(t) - \sigma(b))$ to σ

contribute $(\sigma(t) - \sigma(b)), (\sigma(t) - \sigma(a))$ to $\sigma(a, b)$. similarly

Thus can be ignored.

case 4. continue.

$(t, a) (t, b)$ with $t < a < b$.

$$(\sigma(a) - \sigma(t))(\sigma(b) - \sigma(t)) = \frac{(\sigma(b) - \sigma(t))}{\sigma} / (\sigma(a) - \sigma(t))$$

Thus can be ignored.

case 5. (a, b) itself.

$\sigma(b) - \sigma(a)$ to σ

$\sigma(a) - \sigma(b)$ to $\sigma(a, b)$.

$$\sigma(b) - \sigma(a) = -(\sigma(a) - \sigma(b)).$$

□

proposition: The signs of permutations of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ have the following:

- (a) $\text{sgn } 1 = +1$
- (b) $\text{sgn } \sigma = (-1)^k$ product of k transpositions.
- (c) $\text{sgn}(\sigma\tau) = (\text{sgn } \sigma)(\text{sgn } \tau)$
- (d). $\text{sgn}(\sigma^{-1}) = \text{sgn}(\sigma)$.

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