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Chapter 1

Groups

1.1 Definitions

Definition 1.1.1. Let G be a non empty set. We define a group as a pair $(G, *)$ where $*$ is a binary operation

$$\begin{aligned} * : G \times G &\longrightarrow G \\ (g_1, g_2) &\longmapsto g_1 * g_2 \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

such that the following properties are satisfied.

1. Associativity: $(xy)z = x(yz) \ \forall x, y, z \in G$
2. Identity element: $\forall x \in G \ \exists e \in G$ such that $ex = xe = x$
3. Inverse element: $\forall x \in G \ \exists x^{-1} \in G$ such that $xx^{-1} = x^{-1}x = e$

Definition 1.1.2. Let $(G, *)$ be a group. We say G is *commutative* or *abelian* if and only if

$$\forall g_1, g_2 \in G, \ g_1 g_2 = g_2 g_1. \tag{1.2}$$

Lemma 1.1.1. Let $(G, *)$ be a group. Then,

1. The identity element is unique
2. The inverse element of $g \in G$ is unique.
3. Given $g, h \in G$ such that $gh = e$, then $h = g^{-1}$
4. Given $g, h \in G$, $(gh)^{-1} = h^{-1}g^{-1}$
5. Given $g, u, v \in G$ such that $gu = gv$, then $u = v$
6. Given $g, u, v \in G$ such that $ug = vg$, then $u = v$
7. Given $g \in G$, $(g^{-1})^{-1} = g$.

Corollary 1.1.2. Let $\varphi : G \longrightarrow G$ be an application defined by $\varphi(g) = g^{-1}$. Then,

1. $\varphi^2 = \text{id}_G$
2. $\varphi(g_1 * g_2) = \varphi(g_2) * \varphi(g_1)$.

1.1.1 Subgroups

Definition 1.1.3. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $H \subseteq G$ a subset of G . We say $(H, *)$ is a *subgroup* of $(G, *)$ if and only if

1. $h_1, h_2 \in H \Rightarrow h_1 * h_2 \in H$.
2. $e_G \in H$.
3. $h \in H \Rightarrow h^{-1} \in H$.

Proposition 1.1.3. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $H \subseteq G$ a subset of G . Then,

1. $(H, *)$ is a subgroup of $(G, *)$ if and only if $H \neq \emptyset$ and $\forall h_1, h_2 \in H, \ h_1 * h_2^{-1} \in H$.
2. $(H, *)$ is a subgroup of $(G, *)$ if and only if $H \neq \emptyset$ and $\forall h_1, h_2 \in H, \ h_1^{-1} * h_2 \in H$.

Proposition 1.1.4. Let $(H, *)$ be a subgroup of $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$. Then there exists a number $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $H = n\mathbb{Z}$.

Proposition 1.1.5. Let $(G_i, *_i)$ with $i = 1, \dots, n$ be n groups. Then, the product $G_1 \times \dots \times G_n$ induces a group with the operation defined as

$$(g_1, \dots, g_n) *' (g'_1, \dots, g'_n) := (g_1 * g'_1, \dots, g_n * g'_n). \tag{1.3}$$

Definition 1.1.4. Let $(G, *)$ be a group. We define the *order* of G as the number $|G|$ of elements in G .

Lemma 1.1.6. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $(H_i, *)_I$ a collection of subgroups of $(G, *)$. Then, the set

$$H := \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \quad (1.4)$$

is a subgroup of $(G, *)$.

Definition 1.1.5. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $X \subseteq G$ a subset of G . We define the *subgroup generated by X* as the smallest subgroup $(\langle X \rangle, *)$ that contains X .

Proposition 1.1.7. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $X \subseteq G$ a subset of G . Then, the subgroup $(\langle X \rangle, *)$ generated by X is determined by

$$\langle X \rangle = \bigcap_{H \leq G, X \subseteq H} H. \quad (1.5)$$

Definition 1.1.6. Let $(G, *)$ be a group, $g \in G$ an element and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ a number. We define the *n -th power of g* as

$$g^n := \begin{cases} g * \cdots * g & n > 0 \\ e & n = 0 \\ g^{-1} * \cdots * g^{-1} & n < 0 \end{cases} \quad (1.6)$$

Lemma 1.1.8. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $g \in G$ an element. Then, for all $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ it is satisfied

$$g^n * g^m = g^{n+m} = g^m * g^n. \quad (1.7)$$

Definition 1.1.7. Let $(G, *)$ be a group. We say $(G, *)$ is *cyclic* if and only if it is generated by one element.

Proposition 1.1.9. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $g \in G$ an element. Then,

$$\langle g \rangle = \bigcup_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} g^i \quad (1.8)$$

Definition 1.1.8. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $g \in G$ an element. We define the *order* of g as the number of elements of $\langle g \rangle$.

Proposition 1.1.10. $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ is a cyclic group generated by $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and all subgroups of $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ are cyclic.

Proposition 1.1.11. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $g \in G$ an element. If $\text{ord } g \neq |G|$, then $(G, *)$ is not cyclic.

Proposition 1.1.12. Let $(G, *)$ be a cyclic group. Then, $(G, *)$ is abelian.

Proposition 1.1.13. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $g \in G$ an element. Then, $\text{ord } g < \infty$ if and only if there exists a $n \in \mathbb{Z}^*$ such that $g^n = e$.

Proposition 1.1.14. Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $g \in G$ an element. Then,

$$\text{ord } g = \min \{ i > 0 \mid g^i = e \}. \quad (1.9)$$

If no such i exists, we say $\text{ord } g = \infty$

Corollary 1.1.15. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$ a number and $\bar{a} \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. Then,

$$\text{ord } \bar{a} = \frac{n}{\gcd(a, n)} = \frac{\text{lcm}(a, n)}{a}. \quad (1.10)$$

Corollary 1.1.16. *Let $\{(G_i, *_i)\}$ be a set of n group and $g_i \in G_i$ an element of each group to form $g = (g_1, \dots, g_n) \in G_1 \times \dots \times G_n$. Then,*

$$\text{ord } g = \text{lcm}(\text{ord } g_1, \dots, \text{ord } g_n). \quad (1.11)$$

Corollary 1.1.17. *Let $(G_1, *_1), (G_2, *_2)$ be two cyclic groups. Then, $G_1 \times G_2$ induces a cyclic group if and only if $\gcd(\text{ord } G_1, \text{ord } G_2) = 1$, that is, $\text{ord } G_1$ and $\text{ord } G_2$ are coprime.*

Proposition 1.1.18. *Let $(G, *)$ be a cyclic group of order n and g its generator. Then,*

1. $g^m = e \Leftrightarrow n \mid m$
2. $g^a = g^b \Leftrightarrow a \equiv b \pmod{n}$
3. If $0 \leq m \leq n$, then $g^{-m} = (g^m)^{-1} = g^{n-m}$

Proposition 1.1.19. *Let $(G, *)$ be a group and $F \subseteq G$ a subset of G . Then,*

$$\langle F \rangle = \{e\} \cup \{g_1^{\alpha_1} * \dots * g_n^{\alpha_n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}, g_i \in F\}. \quad (1.12)$$

Theorem 1.1.20. *Every permutation is product of transposition. In particular, the symmetric group S_n is generated by*

$$S_n = \langle (1, 2), \dots, (1, n) \rangle. \quad (1.13)$$

Theorem 1.1.21. *Let K be a field and $GL_n(K)$ the linear group. Every invertible matrix of $GL_n(K)$ is product of elementary matrices. In other words, $GL_n(K)$ is generated by elementary matrices.*