

## 2. Groups

- Some images are taken from this lecture [visual group theory](#).

### 2.1 Groups

#### Definition

Let  $G$  be a set with the  $\cdot$  operation. Then  $(G, \cdot)$  is a group  $\iff$

- $a, b \in G \Rightarrow ab \in G$  - **closure**
- $a, b, c \in G \Rightarrow (ab)c = a(bc)$  - **Associativity**
- $\exists e \in G$  s.t.  $ae = ea = e, \forall a \in G$  - **Identity**
- $\forall a \in G \exists a' \in G$  s.t.  $aa' = a'a = e$  - **Inverses**

If  $a, b \in G \Rightarrow ab = ba$  we call  $G$  an **abelian group**

#### Examples:

Group	Operation	Identity	Form of Element	Inverse	Abelian
$\mathbb{Z}$	Addition	0	$k$	$-k$	Yes
$\mathbb{Q}^+$	Multiplication	1	$m/n,$ $m, n > 0$	$n/m$	Yes
$\mathbb{Z}_n$	Addition mod $n$	0	$k$	$n - k$	Yes
$\mathbb{R}^*$	Multiplication	1	$x$	$1/x$	Yes
$\mathbb{C}^*$	Multiplication	1	$a + bi$	$\frac{1}{a^2 + b^2}a - \frac{1}{a^2 + b^2}bi$	Yes
$GL(2, F)$	Matrix multiplication	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix},$ $ad - bc \neq 0$	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{d}{ad - bc} & \frac{-b}{ad - bc} \\ \frac{-c}{ad - bc} & \frac{a}{ad - bc} \end{bmatrix}$ Solution to $kx \bmod n = 1$	No
$U(n)$	Multiplication mod $n$	1	$k,$ $\gcd(k, n) = 1$	$kx \bmod n = 1$	Yes
$\mathbb{R}^n$	Componentwise addition	$(0, 0, \dots, 0)$	$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$	$(-a_1, -a_2, \dots, -a_n)$	Yes
$SL(2, F)$	Matrix multiplication	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix},$ $ad - bc = 1$	$\begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$	No
$D_n$	Composition	$R_0$	$R_\alpha, L$	$R_{360 - \alpha}, L$	No

- Photo from Contemporary abstract algebra

#### Properties

- The identity  $e$  is unique
- The inverse of an element  $a$  is unique and  $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$
- $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$
- The **trivial group** is formed only by the identity element --  $\{1\}$

**Notation** - sometimes the identity  $e \in G$  will be denoted with  $1_G$

### 2.2 Mappings

$$f : S \rightarrow S'$$

### Example

- $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; f(x) = x^2 \iff x \mapsto x^2$

### Definitions

- injectivity, bijectivity, surjectivity - wiki these
- identity mapping, Inverse, composites - wiki these

### Left multiplication is a bijection

Let  $G$  be a group and fix  $g$ . Then the map  $G \rightarrow G$  with  $x \mapsto gx$  is a **bijection**

**Example:** Let  $G = (\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^*$  and pick  $g = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\xrightarrow{\times 2} 2 \bmod 5 \\ 2 &\xrightarrow{\times 2} 4 \bmod 5 \\ 3 &\xrightarrow{\times 2} 1 \bmod 5 \\ 4 &\xrightarrow{\times 2} 3 \bmod 5 \end{aligned}$$

### Permutations

$P(S)$  is a **group** with the composition as law

## 2.3 Homomorphisms

### Definition -- homomorphisms

Let  $G, H$  be groups. A **homomorphism** is a map  $f : G \rightarrow H$  with the following property:

$$f(xy) = f(x)f(y) \quad \forall x, y \in G$$

- Homomorphisms preserve structure

### Examples

1.  $x \mapsto e^x$  is a homomorphism from the multiplicative to the additive group
2.  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/100\mathbb{Z}, \phi(x) = x \bmod 100$

### Properties of a homomorphism $f : G \rightarrow H$

1. Let  $1_G, 1_H$  be the unit elements  $\Rightarrow f(1_G) = 1_H$

*Proof:*

$$f(1_G) = f(1_G 1_G) = f(1_G)f(1_G) \mid_{f(1_G)^{-1}} \iff 1_H = f(1_G)$$

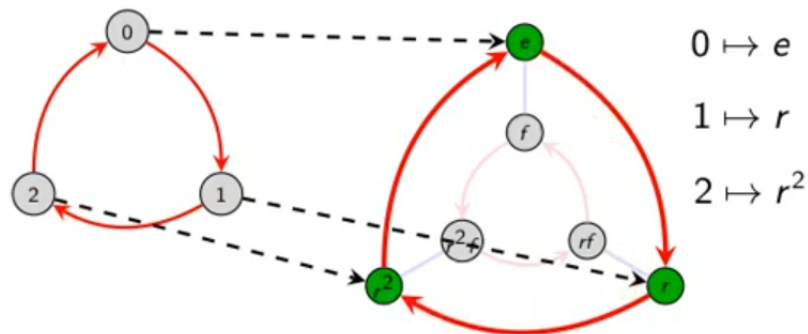
2. Let  $x \in G \Rightarrow f(x^{-1}) = f(x)^{-1}$

*Proof:*

$$1_H = f(1_G) = f(xx^{-1}) = f(x)f(x^{-1}) \mid_{f(x)^{-1}} \iff f(x)^{-1} = f(x^{-1})$$

3. Let  $f : G \rightarrow G'$  be a group homomorphism and let  $g : G' \rightarrow G''$  be a group homomorphism  $\Rightarrow g \circ f$  is a group homomorphism from  $G$  to  $G''$

Consider the statement:  $\mathbb{Z}_3 < D_3$ . Here is a visual:



The group  $D_3$  contains a size-3 cyclic subgroup  $\langle r \rangle$ , which is identical to  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  **in structure only**. None of the elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  (namely 0, 1, 2) are actually in  $D_3$ .

When we say  $\mathbb{Z}_3 < D_3$ , we really mean that the structure of  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  shows up in  $D_3$ .

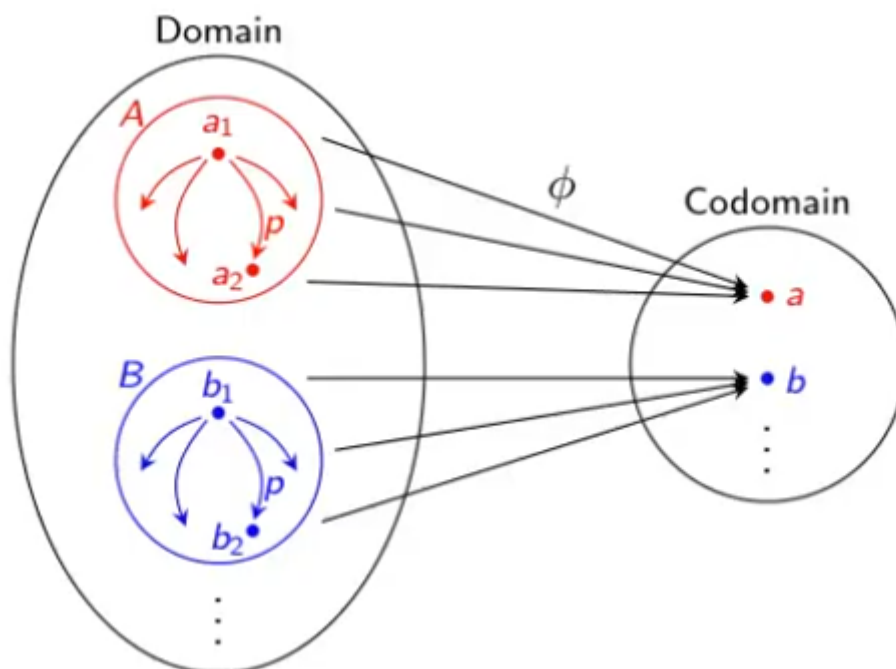
In particular, there is a bijective correspondence between the elements in  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  and those in the subgroup  $\langle r \rangle$  in  $D_3$ . Furthermore, the *relationship* between the corresponding nodes is the same.

## Preimages

### Preimage

If  $f : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism and  $h \in \text{Im}(f) < H$  the **preimage** of  $h$  is the set

$$f^{-1}(h) = \{g \in G : f(g) = h\}$$



## Property

- All preimages have the same structure

## Kernel of a homomorphism

### Definition -- kernel

The kernel of  $f : G \rightarrow H$  is represented by all  $g \in G$  with  $f(g) = 1_H$

Preimage of  $1_H$

$$\ker f = \{g \in G : f(g) = 1_H\}$$

### Examples of kernels

1. Let  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/100\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $f(x) = x \bmod 100$   
 $\ker f = 100\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -200, -100, 0, 100, 200, \dots\}$
2. Let  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $f(x) = 10x$   
 $\ker f = \{0\}$  -- trivial
3. Let  $f : G \rightarrow H$ ,  $f(g) = 1_H$   
 $\ker f = G$  -- all of  $G$  represents the kernel

### Properties

- if  $\ker(f) = 1_G$  then  $f$  is injective

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } x, y \in G \text{ and } f(x) = f(y) \\ 1_H = f(x)f(y)^{-1} = f(xy^{-1}) \Rightarrow xy^{-1} = 1_G \Rightarrow x = y \end{aligned}$$

### Definition -- Embedding

An injective homomorphism is called an **embedding**

## Isomorphism

### Definition -- Isomorphism

Let  $f : G \rightarrow H$  be a group homomorphism

$f$  is an **isomorphism**  $\iff \exists g : H \rightarrow G$  s.t  $f \circ g$  and  $g \circ f$  are the identity mappings

$f$  is an **isomorphism** if  $f$  is a bijection and a homomorphism

**Example:** Consider  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $10\mathbb{Z}$  with the map  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 10\mathbb{Z}$  with  $\phi(x) = 10x$

- $f$  is a bijection
- $f(x + y) = 10(x + y) = 10x + 10y = f(x) + f(y)$

### Theorem

If  $\ker(f) = e$  then  $f$  is an isomorphism with the image  $f(G)$

Proof

$f$  is always surjective into its image and we proved above it's injective

## 2.4 Cosets

- [written -- page 71 -- good example](#) -- follow along with this, it's explained better

### Definition -- cosets

Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  be a subgroup. The **set** of all elements  $ax$  with  $x \in H$  is called a **coset** of  $H$  in  $G$

- Denoted by  $aH$

$g_n H$
$\vdots$
$g_2 H$
$g_1 H$
$H$

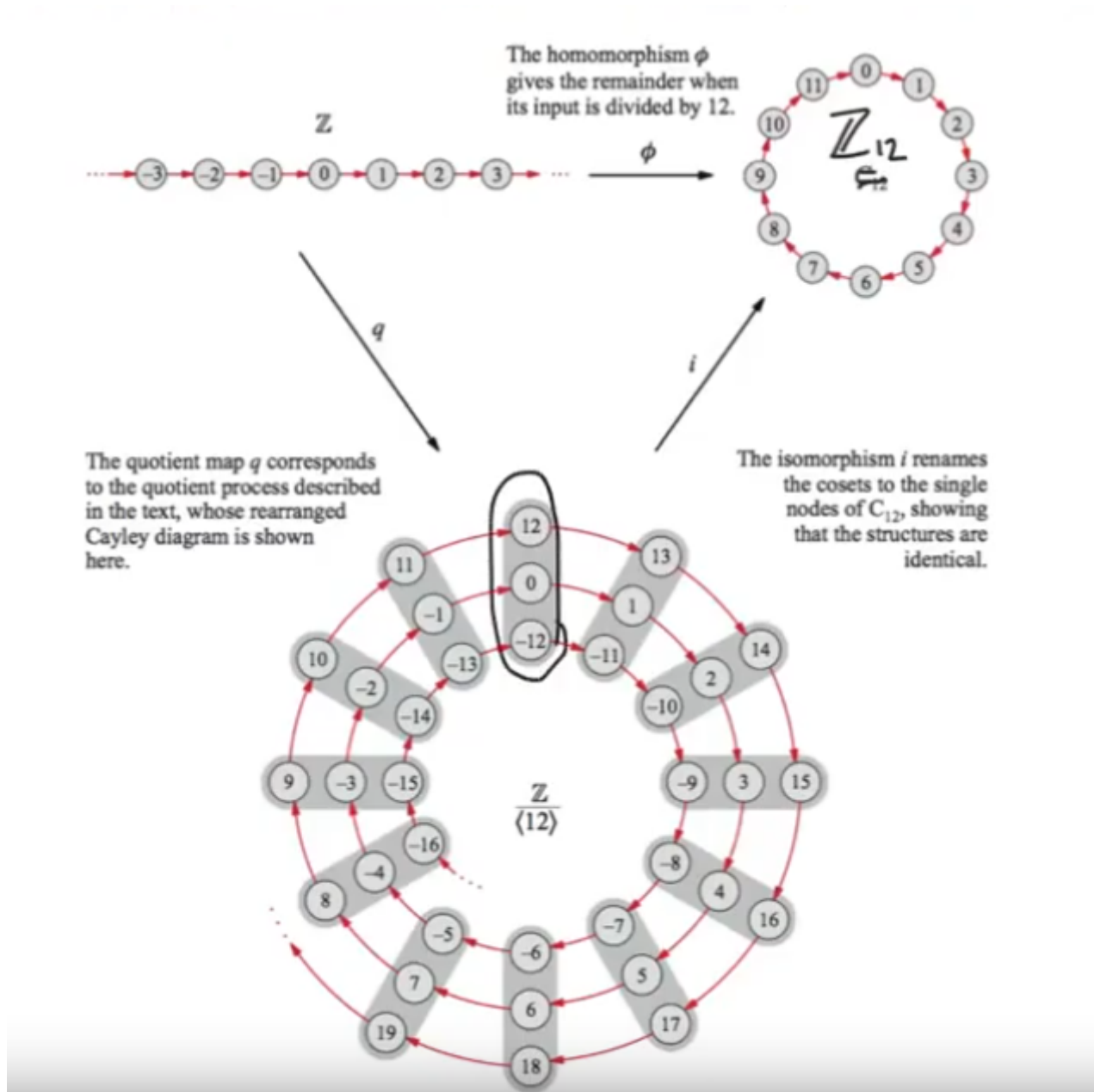
$Hg_n$	
$Hg_2$	$\dots$
$Hg_1$	
$H$	

- [video -- short explanation](#)
- [video -- socratica explanation](#)
- [video -- visual group theory explanation](#)

## Properties

Let  $H < G$  and  $a, b \in G$

- Two cosets of the same subgroup either are equal or have no element in common
- $|H| = |aH| = |bH|$  - same number of elements
- $a \in aH$
- $aH = H \iff a \in H$
- $aH = bH \iff a \in bH$
- $aH = Ha \iff H = aHa^{-1}$
- $aH < G \iff a \in H$



## Note

- The coset is **not** necessarily a group

## Normal subgroup

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal\\_subgroup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal_subgroup)

- <https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/1014535/is-there-any-intuitive-understanding-of-normal-subgroup/1014791>

### Definition -- normal subgroup

A subgroup  $H$  of a group  $G$  is called a **normal subgroup** of  $G$  if  $aH = Ha \forall a \in G$

Notation:  $H \triangleleft G$ .

### Definition -- conjugate

Let  $a \in G$

The set  $aHa^{-1} = \{aha^{-1} | h \in H\}$  is called the conjugate of  $H$  by  $a$

Test to see if  $H$  is normal

- $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G \iff aHa^{-1} \subseteq H \forall a \in G$

### Note

- for an element  $h \in H$ ,  $ah$  is not necessarily equal to  $ha$ .
- The idea is that the cosets are equal.

### Intuition

- Looks the same over all perspectives

## 2.5 Cyclic groups

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### Definition -- cyclic subgroup

A group  $G$  is cyclic if  $\exists a \in G$  s.t.  $G = \{a^n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

Notation:  $G = \langle a \rangle$

### Theorem

Let  $a$  be an element of order  $n$  and  $k$  a positive int

$\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$  and  $|\langle a^k \rangle| = n / \gcd(n, k)$

### Proof

- Let  $d = \gcd(n, k)$ ,  $k = dr$
- Since  $a^k = (a^d)^r \Rightarrow \langle a^k \rangle \subseteq \langle a^d \rangle$  (1)
- By  $\gcd \Rightarrow \exists s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $d = ns + kt \Rightarrow a^d = a^{ns+kt} = a^{ns} a^{kt} = e(a^{kt}) = (a^k)^t \in \langle a^k \rangle \Rightarrow \langle a^d \rangle \subseteq \langle a^k \rangle$  (2)
- By (1) and (2) we proved the theorem

### Theorem - Lagrange

Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  -- a cyclic subgroup

The order of any subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  divides the order of  $G$

### Theorem - Isomorphisms between cyclic groups

Any 2 cyclic groups of order  $d$  are isomorphic.

If  $a$  is a generator of  $G$  then there is a unique isomorphism  $f : \mathbb{Z}/d\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$  s.t.  $f(1) = a$

### Note

- All groups of prime order are cyclic

## 2.6 Direct product

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### External

### Definition -- External product

Let  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  a finite collection of groups

The **external direct product** is the set of all  $n$ -tuples for which the  $i$ 'th component is an element of  $G_i$  with the operation componentwise

Notation  $G_1 \oplus G_2 \oplus \dots \oplus G_n = \{(g_1, \dots, g_n) | g_i \in G_i\}$

### Example

- $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} = \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (0, 2), (1, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2)\}$

- Note that  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \sim \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$

#### Theorem -- order of an element in the external direct product

$$|(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n)| = \text{lcm}(|g_1|, |g_2|, \dots, |g_n|)$$

where  $\text{lcm}$  = least common multiple

#### Theorem -- isomorphism

Let  $m = n_1 n_2 \dots n_k$ . Then  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/n_1\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/n_2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}/n_k\mathbb{Z} \iff \gcd(n_i, n_j) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$

#### Theorem - direct product is cyclic?

$$G \oplus H \text{ is cyclic} \iff \gcd(|G|, |H|) = 1$$

#### Application - Binary strings

- An  $n$ -bit string can be an element of  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  -  $n$  times

## Internal

#### Definition -- Internal subgroup

Let  $H, K < G$

Then  $G = H \times K$  if  $H, K$  are normal subgroups and  $G = HK$  and  $H \cap K = \{e\}$

## 2.7 Finite abelian groups

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#### Torsion element

An element  $a \in A$  is said to be a **torsion element** if it has finite period

The subset of all torsion elements of  $A$  is a **subgroup** of  $A$  and is called the **torsion subgroup**

#### Property

- $a$  has period  $m$
- $b$  has period  $n$
- $\Rightarrow a \pm b$  has period dividing  $mn$

#### Theorem

The group  $A$  is the direct sum of its subgroups  $A(p)$  for all primes  $p$  dividing  $n$

#### Fundamental Theorem of Finite Abelian Groups

Every finite Abelian group is a direct product of cyclic groups of prime power order

Moreover the number of terms and the orders of the cyclic groups are **uniquely** determined by the group

Every abelian cyclic group  $G \approx \mathbb{Z}/p_1^{n_1}\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p_2^{n_2}\mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}/p_k^{n_k}\mathbb{Z}$

#### Note

- $p_i$  aren't necessarily distinct primes

#### Existence of subgroups of abelian groups

- If  $m$  divides  $|G|$  then  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $m$