

# **25SG** Structure of Groups

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# Preface

Later Version = Better Version.

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# Chapter 1

## Abelian Groups

Throughout this chapter, we use the additive notation.

abelian groups =  $\mathbb{Z}$  modules

We will pretend that we're doing linear algebra.

### 1.1 Fundamentals

**Proposition 1.1.1** (subgroup generated by a finite subset)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a finite subset, then the intersection of all subgroups containing  $X$  is given by

$$\langle X \rangle = \left\{ \sum_{g \in X} n_g g \mid n_g \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

We call it the subgroup generated by  $X$ . We define  $\langle \emptyset \rangle = \{0\}$  to be the trivial subgroup.

**Proposition 1.1.2** (subgroup generated by a subset)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a subset, denote the set of all finite subsets of  $X$  by  $\text{Sub}_{\text{fin}}(X)$ , then the intersection of all subgroups containing  $X$  is given by

$$\langle X \rangle = \bigcup_{X_0 \in \text{Sub}_{\text{fin}}(X)} \langle X_0 \rangle$$

We call it the subgroup generated by  $X$ . (You should verify that this is a subgroup of  $G$ , and this definition is an extension of the previous one.)

**Definition 1.1.3** (generating subset)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a subset. If  $G = \langle X \rangle$ , then we say that the subset  $X$  is a generating subset of the group  $G$ .

For example,  $G$  is a generating subset of  $G$ .

**Definition 1.1.4** (finite independent subset)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a finite subset. If the mapping

$$\mathbb{Z}^{\text{Card}(X)} \xrightarrow{\kappa_X^G} \langle X \rangle, \quad (n_g)_{g \in X} \mapsto \sum_{g \in X} n_g g$$

is injective, then we say that the subset  $X$  is an independent subset of  $G$ .

**Definition 1.1.5** (independent subset)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a subset. If every finite subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  is an independent subset of  $G$ , then we say that the subset  $X$  is an independent subset of  $G$ . (You should verify that this definition is an extension of the previous one.)

**Remark 1.1.6**

The mapping  $\kappa_X^G$  is always surjective by definition.

**Example 1.1.7**

The empty subset  $\emptyset$  is an independent subset.

**Example 1.1.8**

The subset  $\{g\}$  consists of only one element is an independent subset if and only if  $\text{ord}(g) = \infty$ .

**Definition 1.1.9** (basis)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a subset. We say that  $X$  is a basis of the group  $G$  if  $X$  is a generating subset and an independent subset.

## 1.2 Free Abelian Groups

**Definition 1.2.1** (free abelian group)

If  $G$  is an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  is a basis of  $G$ , then we say that  $G$  is free on  $X$ . If  $G$  is an abelian group which is free on some subset  $X \subseteq G$ , then we say that  $G$  is a free abelian group.

**Example 1.2.2**

$(\mathbb{Q}_{>0}, \times)$  is free on the set of primes  $\mathbb{P}$ , but  $\mathbb{Q}$  is not free.

**Exercise 1.2.3** (Baer–Specker group)

Show that the group  $\text{Map}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z})$  is not free.

**Definition 1.2.4** (free abelian group generated by a set)

Let  $X$  be a set, we define  $\mathbb{Z}X$  to be the set of all **formal** expressions of the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i, \quad \text{where all } x_i \in X, a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

And the set  $X$  embed into the group  $\mathbb{Z}X$  in a natural way with  $\mathbb{Z}X$  free on  $X$ .

**Proposition 1.2.5** ( $\mathbb{Z}X$  as a free object)  
For every abelian group  $G$ , the restriction

$$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}X, G) \xrightarrow{\bullet|_X} \text{Map}(X, G)$$

is bijective. Given a mapping  $f : X \rightarrow G$ , we will write  $f^\# : \mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow G$  to be the (unique) group homomorphism such that  $f^\#|_X = f$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $\varphi|_X = \psi|_X$ , then  $\varphi(x) = \psi(x)$  for all  $x \in X$  so  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  agrees on the generating subset  $X$  of  $\mathbb{Z}X$ . Hence  $\varphi = \psi$ .

To show that  $\bullet|_X$  is surjective, we construct  $f^\#$  explicitly by:

$$f^\# \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i f(x_i)$$

which can be easily verified to be a group homomorphism.  $\square$

**Exercise 1.2.6**

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a subset. Let  $j = j_X^G : X \rightarrow G$  be the inclusion mapping. Show that:

- $X$  is a generating subset of  $G$  if and only if  $j^\#$  is surjective.
- $X$  is an independent subset of  $G$  if and only if  $j^\#$  is injective.
- $X$  is a basis of  $G$  if and only if  $j^\#$  is bijective.

**Corollary 1.2.7** (every object is a quotient of a free object)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X$  be a generating subset of  $G$  (which always exists since we can take  $X = G$ ), then  $(j_X^G)^\# : \mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow G$  is surjective and  $G$  is isomorphic to a quotient group of  $\mathbb{Z}X$ .

**Example 1.2.8**

Let  $X$  be a finite set with  $\text{Card}(X) = n$ , then there are  $m^n = \text{Card}(\text{Map}(X, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}))$  homomorphisms in total from  $\mathbb{Z}X$  to  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 1.2.9**

If  $G$  is an abelian group which is free on  $X \subset G$ , denote the inclusion  $X \rightarrow G$  by  $j$ , then  $j^\# : \mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow G$  is an isomorphism.

Conversely, if  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow G$  is an isomorphism, then  $G$  is free on  $\varphi(X)$ .

*Proof.* Everything follows easily from the construction of  $j^\#$ .  $\square$

We can speak of the “dimension” of a free abelian group:

**Theorem 1.2.10**

Let  $X, Y$  be two finite set such that  $\mathbb{Z}X \simeq \mathbb{Z}Y$ , then  $\text{Card}(X) = \text{Card}(Y)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\mathbb{Z}X \simeq \mathbb{Z}Y$  we have  $\text{Card}(\text{Map}(X, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})) = \text{Card}(\text{Map}(Y, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}))$ , which implies  $\text{Card}(X) = \text{Card}(Y)$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.2.11**

By Zorn’s lemma,  $\mathbb{Z}X \simeq \mathbb{Z}Y$  always imply  $\text{Card}(X) = \text{Card}(Y)$  as cardinals.

**Corollary 1.2.12** (dimension of a free abelian group)

Suppose  $G$  an abelian group which is free on some finite subset  $X \subseteq G$ , then every basis of  $G$  has the same cardinality.

Thus for **abelian groups free on some finite subset** (=FF abelian groups), a non-negative integer called the **dimension** is defined. For two FF abelian groups  $G, H$ , they are isomorphic if and only if  $\dim G = \dim H$ .

### 1.3 Structure of FF Abelian Groups

Recall that an abelian group  $G$  is FF if  $G$  is free on some finite subset  $X \subseteq G$ , if and only if  $G$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}Y$  for some finite set  $Y$ . And every FF abelian group has a uniquely determined dimension, which is a non-negative integer.

We start by explicitly describe all basis transformations:

**Lemma 1.3.1** (base change lemma, version 1)

If  $\mathbf{a}_1 = (a_{11}, a_{12}, \dots, a_{1n}), \dots, \mathbf{a}_n = (a_{n1}, a_{n2}, \dots, a_{nn})$  is a basis of the group  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , then the matrix  $A = (a_{ij})$  has determinant  $\det(A) = \pm 1$ .

*Proof.* This is because we can write  $\mathbf{e}_i = \sum_{j=1}^n b_{ij} \mathbf{a}_j$ . □

**Lemma 1.3.2** (base change lemma, version 2)

Let  $G$  be a FF abelian group of dimension  $\dim G = n$  and  $(e_1, \dots, e_n), (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n)$  be two basis of  $G$ . Then there exists a matrix  $A = (a_{ij}) \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z})$  such that

$$e_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \epsilon_j$$

*Proof.* Left as an exercise. □

The next result explains why  $\{2\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  is not a basis:

**Proposition 1.3.3** (height lemma)

Let  $G$  be a FF abelian group of dimension  $\dim G = n$  and  $0 \neq g \in G$ . Then under every basis  $\mathcal{B} = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$  we can write

$$g = \sum_{i=1}^n \Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}}(g) b_i, \text{ and we define } \text{ht}_{\mathcal{B}}(g) = \gcd_{1 \leq i \leq n} (\Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}}(g))$$

Then  $\text{ht}_{\mathcal{B}}(g) \in \mathbb{N}_+$  is independent of the choice of basis  $\mathcal{B}$ . We call this number the height of  $g$  and denote it by  $\text{ht}_G(g)$ .

In particular,  $\text{ht}_G(b_i) = 1$  for all  $b_i \in \mathcal{B}$ .

*Proof.* Left as an exercise. □

**Proposition 1.3.4**

Let  $G$  be a FF abelian group of dimension  $\dim G = n$  and  $0 \neq g \in G$ . Then there exists a basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  of  $G$  such that  $g = \text{ht}_G(g) e_1$ .

*Proof.* Consider the following set:

$$B^+(g) = \{\mathcal{B} \text{ is a basis of } G \mid \Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}}(g) \geq 0 \text{ for all } i\}$$

This set is non-empty since if we have  $g = a_1 b_1 + \cdots + a_n b_n$ , then

$$g = \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i| (\text{sgn}(a_i) b_i)$$

where  $(\text{sgn}(a_1) b_1, \dots, \text{sgn}(a_n) b_n)$  is still a basis of  $G$ . Now for  $\mathcal{B} \in B^+(g)$  define

$$|g|_{\mathcal{B}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}}(g) \in \mathbb{N}_+$$

Then there exists a basis  $\mathcal{B}_0 = (e_1, \dots, e_n) \in B^+(g)$  such that  $|g|_{\mathcal{B}}$  is minimal. We claim that  $\Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) = 0$  for all but one  $i$ .

In fact, if for  $i \neq j$  we have  $\Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) > 0$  and  $\Gamma_j^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) > 0$ . WLOG we assume  $\Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) \leq \Gamma_j^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g)$ , then we write

$$g = \left( \sum_{k \neq i, k \neq j} \Gamma_k^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) e_k \right) + \left( \Gamma_j^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) - \Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) \right) e_j + \Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) (e_i + e_j)$$

This tells us that after a basis transformation  $(\dots, e_i \mapsto e_i + e_j, \dots)$ ,  $|g|_{\mathcal{B}}$  decrease by a positive amount  $\Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g) > 0$ , which is contradictory to our choice of  $\mathcal{B}_0$ . So only one term of  $\Gamma_i^{\mathcal{B}_0}(g)$  is nonzero.

Easy permutation of  $\mathcal{B}_0$  makes  $g = \text{ht}_G(g) e_1$ .  $\square$

Recall that an element  $g \in G$  is called a torsion element if the order  $\text{ord}(g)$  is finite.

**Definition 1.3.5** (torsion-free abelian group)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group. We say that  $G$  is torsion-free if the only torsion element of  $G$  is 0. Equivalently, if  $G$  has no non-trivial finite subgroup.

**Theorem 1.3.6** (finitely generated + torsion free = free on some finite set)

Let  $G$  be a finitely generated abelian group, that is, it has at least one generating subset of finite cardinality. If  $G$  is torsion-free, then  $G$  is free on some finite subset.

*Proof.* Choose a generating subset  $X \subset G$  with minimal cardinality, we now show that  $(j_X^G)^\sharp : \mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow G$  is injective. Suppose the kernel  $K = \ker(j_X^G)^\sharp$  is nontrivial, we choose a non-zero element  $k \in K$  with minimal height.

Then under some basis  $Y = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$  of  $\mathbb{Z}X$ , we can write  $k = \text{ht}(k) e_1$ . The inclusion  $j_Y^{\mathbb{Z}X} : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}X$  gives us an isomorphism  $(j_Y^{\mathbb{Z}X})^\sharp : \mathbb{Z}Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}X$ .

If  $\text{ht}(k) = 1$ , then  $e_1 \in K$ , so  $\mathbb{Z}(Y \setminus \{e_1\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}X \rightarrow G$  is surjective, contradictory to our choice of  $X$ . If  $\text{ht}(k) > 1$ , then  $e_1 \notin K$  by our choice of  $k$ , but then  $(j_X^G)^\sharp(e_1) \in G$  is a non-zero torsion element, another contradiction.  $\square$

This theorem tells us that  $\mathbb{Q}$  is not finitely generated.



## 1.4 Subgroups of FF Abelian Groups

We consider the following proposition:

**SubFF**( $n$ ): If  $G$  is a FF abelian groups of dimension  $\dim G = n$  and  $H \leq G$  be a nontrivial subgroup. Then the following set

$$\text{SubInfo}(G, H) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} (e_1, \dots, e_n) \\ r \\ (d_1, \dots, d_r) \end{pmatrix} \left| \begin{array}{l} (e_1, \dots, e_n) \text{ is a basis of } G \\ 1 \leq r \leq n \text{ is an integer} \\ d_i \in \mathbb{N}_+ \text{ with } d_i | d_{i+1}, \text{ and} \\ (d_1 e_1, \dots, d_r e_r) \text{ is a basis of } H \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

is non-empty, and  $d_1$  is the minimum height of all nonzero elements of  $H$ .

**Proposition 1.4.1** (subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$ )

**SubFF**(1) is true.

*Proof.* A FF abelian group of dimension 1 is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.4.2** (subgroup of FF group)

If **SubFF**( $n - 1$ ) is true, then **SubFF**( $n$ ) is true.

*Proof.* Choose  $0 \neq h \in H$  with minimal height, and choose a basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  of  $G$  such that  $h = \text{ht}_G(h)e_1$ . We claim that: for any  $h' \in H$ , if we write  $h' = a_1 e_1 + \dots + a_n e_n$ , then  $\text{ht}_G(h)$  divides  $a_1$ : if  $a_1 = q \text{ht}_G(h) + r$  with  $0 < r < \text{ht}_G(h)$ , then the element  $h' - qh = re_1 + a_2 e_2 + \dots + a_n e_n$  has height strictly less than  $h$ , contradict to our choice of  $h$ . We claim also that  $\text{ht}_G(h)$  divides all  $a_i$ , for we can further modify  $h'$  to

$$h'' = h' - \frac{a_1}{\text{ht}_G(h)} h + h = \text{ht}_G(h)e_1 + a_2 e_2 + \dots + a_n e_n \in H$$

Then  $\text{ht}_G(h'')$  divides  $\text{ht}_G(h)$  so they must be equal by our choice of  $h$ .

We define  $G_0 = \langle e_2, \dots, e_n \rangle$  and  $H_0 = H \cap G_0$ , then  $G_0$  is free with dimension  $\dim(G_0) = n - 1$ . Only consider the case where  $H_0$  is nontrivial, we show that if  $0 \neq h_0 \in H_0$  has minimal height  $\text{ht}_{G_0}(h_0)$ , then  $\text{ht}_G(h)$  divides  $\text{ht}_{G_0}(h_0)$ . Write  $h_0 = a_2 e_2 + \dots + e_n e_n$ , then we've already proved that  $\text{ht}_G(h)$  divides all  $a_i$ , so it also divides  $\gcd\{a_i | i = 2, \dots, n\} = \text{ht}_G(h_0) = \text{ht}_{G_0}(h_0)$ .

We now apply **SubFF**( $n - 1$ ) to  $H_0 \leq G_0$ , and get a basis  $(\epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n)$  of  $G_0$ , and some  $d_2 | d_3 | \dots | d_r$  where  $d_2 = \text{ht}_{G_0}(h_0)$  and  $(d_2 \epsilon_2, \dots, d_r \epsilon_r)$  is a basis of  $H_0$ . We claim that  $(e_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_n)$  is a basis of  $G$  and  $(d_1 e_1, d_2 \epsilon_2, \dots, d_n \epsilon_n)$  is a basis of  $H$  where  $d_1 = \text{ht}_G(h)$  and  $d_1 | d_2$ . The proof of this claim is trivial.  $\square$

**Remark 1.4.3**

The number  $d_1$  divides  $\text{ht}_G(h)$  for all  $0 \neq h \in H$ .

Up to now, we know that the number  $d_1, D$  and  $r = \dim(H)$  can be read from the inclusion  $H \subseteq G$ . We will show in next section that all  $d_i$  are unique. (A quick dirty proof is by using the Smith normal form of some  $r \times n$  matrix.)

Recall that an abelian group  $G$  is finitely-generated if it has at least one generating subset with finite cardinality. Obviously every quotient of a finitely-generated (abelian) group is again finitely-generated.

**Theorem 1.4.4** (subgroup of finitely-generated abelian group)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $X \subseteq G$  be a generating subset with  $n$  elements. Then every subgroup  $H \leq G$  can be generated by at most  $n$  elements.

*Proof.* Consider the kernel  $K$  of the following homomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z}X \xrightarrow{j^\#} G \xrightarrow{\pi} G/H$$

Then  $K \leq \mathbb{Z}X$  is free with dimension  $\dim(K) \leq \text{Card}(X)$ . And  $j^\#(K) = H$ , as you should verify.  $\square$

## 1.5 Categorical Constructions

We will take the most concrete and the most naïve approach to every categorical constructions.

### 1.5.1 External Sum of Abelian Groups

**Definition 1.5.1** (external sum of **finitely many** abelian groups)

Let  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  be abelian groups, the external direct sum of  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  is

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i = \{(a_1, \dots, a_n) \mid a_i \in A_i\}$$

The following canonical homomorphisms will be useful:

- The canonical inclusion homomorphism

$$\iota_i : A_i \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i, \quad a \mapsto (0, \dots, a, \dots, 0) \text{ placed in the } i\text{-th entry}$$

- The canonical projection homomorphism

$$\pi_i : \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i \rightarrow A_i, \quad (a_1, \dots, a_n) \mapsto a_i$$

**Theorem 1.5.2** (universal property of  $\bigoplus$ )

The following mappings

$$\text{Hom} \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i, B \right) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(A_i, B), \quad \varphi \mapsto (A_i \xrightarrow{\iota_i} \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i \xrightarrow{\varphi} B)_{i=1}^n$$

$$\text{Hom} \left( B, \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i \right) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(B, A_i), \quad \varphi \mapsto (B \xrightarrow{\varphi} \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i \xrightarrow{\pi_i} A_i)_{i=1}^n$$

are isomorphisms of groups.

*Proof.* Omitted. □

Isomorphisms of the other direction is also easy to write down:

$$\begin{aligned} \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(A_i, B) &\xrightarrow{\sqcup} \text{Hom}\left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i, B\right), \quad (\varphi_i)_{i=1}^n \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i \xrightarrow{\pi_i} A_i \xrightarrow{\varphi_i} B\right) \\ \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(B, A_i) &\xrightarrow{\sqcap} \text{Hom}\left(B, \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i\right), \quad (\varphi_i)_{i=1}^n \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n \left(B \xrightarrow{\varphi_i} A_i \xrightarrow{\iota_i} \bigoplus_{i=1}^n A_i\right) \end{aligned}$$

### 1.5.2 Internal Sum of Abelian Groups

**Definition 1.5.3** (direct position)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $H_1, \dots, H_n$  be **finitely many** subgroups of  $G$ . Consider all inclusion mappings  $j_i : H_i \rightarrow H = \sum_{i=1}^n H_i$  as one element

$$(j_i : H_i \rightarrow H)_{i=1}^n \in \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \text{Hom}(H_i, H)$$

Apply  $\sqcup$  to it, we get

$$J = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^n \left(H_i \xrightarrow{j_i} H\right) \in \text{Hom}\left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n H_i, \sum_{i=1}^n H_i\right)$$

If  $J$  is a group isomorphism, then we say the family of subgroups  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is of **direct position**.

**Example 1.5.4**

Let  $H_i \leq G_i$ , then the family  $(\iota_i(H_i) \leq \bigoplus_{i=1}^n G_i)_{i=1}^n$  is of direct position.

**Definition 1.5.5** (internal direct sum)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $H_1, \dots, H_n$  be **finitely many** subgroups of  $G$ . If the family  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is of direct position, we say that  $G$  is the (internal) direct sum of  $H_1, \dots, H_n$ . We also write the following as an abbreviation

$$G = H_1 \oplus \dots \oplus H_n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n H_i$$

By definition, if  $G$  is the internal direct sum of finitely many subgroups  $H_1, \dots, H_n$ , then  $G$  is isomorphic to the external sum of  $H_1, \dots, H_n$ .

**Theorem 1.5.6** (criterion for internal direct sum)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group and  $H_1, \dots, H_n$  be **finitely many** subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $G$  is the internal direct sum of  $H_1, \dots, H_n$  if and only if:

- (1) the union  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n H_i$  is a generating subset of  $G$ , and
- (2) for each  $i$ , the intersection of  $H_i$  and  $\langle \bigcup_{j \neq i} H_j \rangle$  is the trivial group.

*Proof.* Left as an exercise. □

## 1.6 Finitely Generated Abelian Groups

**Theorem 1.6.1** (structure theorem of finitely generated abelian groups, 1)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group which can be generated by  $n$  elements, then there exists  $m_1|m_2|\cdots|m_n$  with  $m_i \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 0}$  such that

$$G \simeq \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathbb{Z}/m_i\mathbb{Z}$$

*Proof.* Say  $X \subset G$  is a generating subset of cardinality  $n$ , the inclusion  $X \xrightarrow{j} G$  gives us a surjective homomorphism

$$\mathbb{Z}X \xrightarrow{j^\#} G$$

Let  $K$  be the kernel of  $j^\#$ , and choose a datum from  $\text{SubInfo}(\mathbb{Z}X, K)$ . Then we have a basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_n)$  of  $\mathbb{Z}X$  and a sequence  $d_1|d_2|\cdots|d_r$  such that  $(d_1e_1, \dots, d_re_r)$  is a basis of  $K$ .

Now we define

$$m_i = \begin{cases} d_i, & i \leq r \\ 0, & i > r \end{cases}$$

Recall that 0 is most elegant number, divisible by everything. □

**Corollary 1.6.2** (structure theorem of finitely generated abelian groups, 2)

Every finitely generated abelian group is isomorphic to a finite direct sum of cyclic  $p$ -groups and  $\mathbb{Z}$ 's.

*Proof.* Use the Chinese Remainder Theorem to break  $\mathbb{Z}/m_i\mathbb{Z}$ . □

**Corollary 1.6.3**

Every finite abelian group is isomorphic to a direct sum of cyclic  $p$ -groups.

**Corollary 1.6.4**

Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group and  $m$  divides the cardinality of  $G$ , then there exists a subgroup  $H \leq G$  with cardinality  $\text{Card}(H) = m$ .

**Lemma 1.6.5**

Let  $x, y \in G$  be two elements commute to each other, then  $\text{ord}(xy) = \text{lcm}(\text{ord}(x), \text{ord}(y))$ .

**Definition 1.6.6** (torsion subgroup)

Let  $G$  be an abelian group, then we define  $G^{\text{tor}}$  to be the subgroup consisting of elements of finite order.

**Corollary 1.6.7** (rank)

Let  $G$  be a finitely generated abelian group, then  $G^{\text{tor}}$  is a finite abelian group,  $G/G^{\text{tor}}$  is a FF abelian group, and  $G$  is isomorphic to  $G^{\text{tor}} \boxplus (G/G^{\text{tor}})$ .

We define the **rank** of  $G$  to be  $\text{rank}(G) = \dim(G/G^{\text{tor}})$ .