

We discuss a little bit more before moving on to “abstract nonsense”.

Recall that we have the universal property of the product, where something is a product if maps to projections factor through the product. Diagrammatically, create a category whose morphisms are the σ such that the below diagram commutes,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & Z_1 & & \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow \sigma & \searrow & \\ B & \xleftarrow{g_1} & Z_2 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & A \\ & \nwarrow & & \nearrow & \\ & & g_2 & & \end{array}$$

and the objects are things of the type

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & Z & \\ & \swarrow g & \searrow f \\ B & & A \end{array}$$

Then notice that, in this category, the product

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & A \times B & \\ & \swarrow \pi_B & \searrow \pi_A \\ B & & A \end{array}$$

Is final, with morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & Z_1 & & \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow \sigma & \searrow & \\ B & \xleftarrow{g} & A \times B & \xrightarrow{\pi_A} & A \\ & \nwarrow & & \nearrow & \\ & & \pi_B & & \end{array}$$

Where $\sigma(z) = (f(z), g(z))$. Here it is clear that the product map is unique, so this truly is final.

Definition 0.1. We say that a category \mathcal{C} has *products* if $\forall A, B \in \text{Obj}(\mathcal{C})$, then $\mathcal{C}_{A,B}$ has a final object. in SET, final objects are disjoint unions.

1 Groups

Definition 1.1 (Group). G is a set with a closed binary operation

$$(\cdot) : G \times G \rightarrow G \quad \cdot (g, h) \mapsto g \times h$$

such that

1. \cdot is associative
2. $\exists e_G \in G$ such that $\forall g \in G \ g \cdot e = e \cdot g = g$
3. We get inverses: $\forall g \in G$, there exists $g^{-1} \in G$ such that $g \cdot g^{-1} = g^{-1} \cdot g = e_G$.

Example 1.2. The trivial group. Yep.

Example 1.3. $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$, $(\mathbb{C}, +)$, $(\pm 1, \cdot)$. Notice that all of these groups are abelian.

Example 1.4. Matrix groups: $(\text{GL}_n(F), \cdot)$, the multiplicative group of invertible $n \times n$ matrices over a field. Notice that matrix multiplication doesn't commute: a trivial fact.

Proposition 1.5. *Both the identity and g^{-1} are unique.*

Proof. Trivial. Suppose $\exists e_1, e_2$ both identities for the sake of contradiction. But then their product blah blah blah. And likewise for inverses. \square

Notation. By associativity, we can justify that

$$g^n = \underbrace{g \cdot g \cdot \dots \cdot g}_{n \text{ times}}$$

As always, a group is called *Abelian* if the binary operation is commutative.

Example 1.6. The Commutator group for a non-abelian group is such that the binary op. is

$$[a, b] = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$$

Likewise the commutator subgroup is a subgroup generated by all commutators of elements from G .

Definition 1.7. The order of an element $g \in G$ is finite if $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $g^n = \text{Id}$. The order of the element is the least such n . An element has infinite order otherwise.

Lemma 1.8. *If $g^n = e$ for some $n > 0$, then $|g|$ divides n .*

Proof. Trivial exercise in number theory. \square

Corollary 1.9.

$$g^N \Leftrightarrow N \text{ is a multiple of } |g|.$$

Definition 1.10. $|G|$ is the number of elements in G , potentially ∞ .

Proposition 1.11. *If $gh = hg$ then $|gh|$ divides $\text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$*

Proof. Evaluation. □

Example 1.12. The Symmetric group S_n with order $n!$. Notice that permutational composition goes in lexicographic order, which stinks. Also obviously S_n is not generally (in fact hardly ever) abelian. If so prompted, we can investigate the structure of S_3 , and write down a presentation of 6 generators.

Example 1.13. The Dihedral groups D_n are the groups that are isometries of a regular n -sided polygon¹ in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Example 1.14. Also of course we have the cyclic groups $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ which we will write as cosets under addition of cosets.

Likewise we can define $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^*$, the multiplicative group mod p . This is a group because trust me. Notice that it's kinda hard to find generators for this in general. It is sometimes cyclic.

Notice that groups together with group homomorphisms form a category called GRP.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times G & \xrightarrow{\varphi \times \varphi} & H \times H \\ \downarrow \cdot_G & & \downarrow \cdot_H \\ G & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & H \end{array}$$

¹<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV7zFzhqYps>