

**A FIRST COURSE
IN
ABSTRACT ALGEBRA**

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MAT3004 Notebook

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Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Notations	ix
1 Week1	1
1.1 Monday	1
1.1.1 Introduction to Abstract Algebra	1
1.1.2 Group	1

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CUHK(SZ)

Notations and Conventions

\mathbb{R}^n	n -dimensional real space
\mathbb{C}^n	n -dimensional complex space
$\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$	set of all $m \times n$ real-valued matrices
$\mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$	set of all $m \times n$ complex-valued matrices
x_i	i th entry of column vector \mathbf{x}
a_{ij}	(i, j) th entry of matrix \mathbf{A}
\mathbf{a}_i	i th column of matrix \mathbf{A}
\mathbf{a}_i^T	i th row of matrix \mathbf{A}
\mathbb{S}^n	set of all $n \times n$ real symmetric matrices, i.e., $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ and $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$ for all i, j
\mathbb{H}^n	set of all $n \times n$ complex Hermitian matrices, i.e., $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ and $\bar{a}_{ij} = a_{ji}$ for all i, j
\mathbf{A}^T	transpose of \mathbf{A} , i.e, $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^T$ means $b_{ji} = a_{ij}$ for all i, j
\mathbf{A}^H	Hermitian transpose of \mathbf{A} , i.e, $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^H$ means $b_{ji} = \bar{a}_{ij}$ for all i, j
$\text{trace}(\mathbf{A})$	sum of diagonal entries of square matrix \mathbf{A}
$\mathbf{1}$	A vector with all 1 entries
$\mathbf{0}$	either a vector of all zeros, or a matrix of all zeros
\mathbf{e}_i	a unit vector with the nonzero element at the i th entry
$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{A})$	the column space of \mathbf{A}
$\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{A})$	the row space of \mathbf{A}
$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{A})$	the null space of \mathbf{A}
$\text{Proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(\mathbf{A})$	the projection of \mathbf{A} onto the set \mathcal{M}

Chapter 1

Week1

1.1. Monday

1.1.1. Introduction to Abstract Algebra

The basic concepts include **groups, rings, fields**.

One topic is algebra, i.e., the solvability of polynomials. (From Galois Theory to analysis)

$$\text{Example: } \frac{dy}{dx} = g(x) \implies Dy = g(x)$$

with operator $D := \frac{d}{dx}$. The operator D forms a ring, i.e.,

$$\{a_n(x)D^n + a_{n-1}(x)D^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0(x)\} \mapsto \text{ring}$$

Second topic is number theory

Third topic is geometry, including *algebraic geometry, differential geometry, topology, finite geometry, affine geometry, algebraic graph theory,, combinatorics*, with applications to coding theory, physics, crystallography chemistry.

1.1.2. Group

Definition 1.1 [Group] A group \mathcal{G} is a set equipped with a binary operation, i.e.,

$$*: \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \mapsto \mathcal{G}$$

such that:

1. Associativity: $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$ for $\forall a, b, c \in \mathcal{G}$.
2. Existence of Identity: \exists an identity $e \in \mathcal{G}$ s.t. $e * g = g * e = g$ for $\forall g \in \mathcal{G}$.
3. Existence of Inverse: $\forall g \in \mathcal{G}$, there exists an inverse g^{-1} s.t. $g^{-1} * g = g * g^{-1} = e$.

The size(order) of \mathcal{G} is denoted by $|\mathcal{G}|$. ■



- If $a * b = b * a$ for $\forall a, b$, then \mathcal{G} is called an **abelian group**.
- If $|\mathcal{G}| = 1$, then \mathcal{G} is said to be **trivial**, otherwise \mathcal{G} is **nontrivial**.
- Similarly, the ternary operation means:

$$*: \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \mapsto \mathcal{G}$$

- The semigroup definition only requires the (1) condition; and the monoid requires the (1) and (2) conditions.
- Is \emptyset a group? By the second condition, it is not a group.

Given a set \mathcal{S} with its associated operation $*$, to check $(\mathcal{S}, *)$ is a group, we need to check:

1. \mathcal{S} is **closed** under the operation $*$, i.e., $a * b \in \mathcal{S}$ for $\forall a, b \in \mathcal{S}$
2. **Associativity**.
3. **Existence of Identity**
4. **Existence of Inverse**

Proposition 1.1 $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ is a group.

Proof. 1. For $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$, it is easy to show $a + b \in \mathbb{Q}$.

2. Associativity: $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ for $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$
3. Existence of Identity: Take the identity $0 \in \mathbb{Q}$, we have $0 + a = a + 0 = a$ for $\forall a \in \mathbb{Q}$.
4. Existence of Inverse: For $\forall a \in \mathbb{Q}$, it follows that $(-a) \in \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $(-a) + a = a + (-a) = 0$.

■

Note that (\mathbb{Q}, \cdot) is not a group since inverse does not exist.

R Note that the existence of identity is unique, which will be shown in the future.

Proposition 1.2 (u_m, \cdot) is a group, where

$$u_m = \{1, \zeta^m, \dots, \zeta^{m-1}\}$$

with $\zeta^m = 1$ and $\zeta \neq 1$.

Proof. 1. Note that for $\forall \zeta^j, \zeta^k \in u_m$, we have

$$\zeta^j \cdot \zeta^k := \zeta^{j+k} = \begin{cases} \zeta^{j+k}, & j+k \leq m-1 \\ \zeta^{j+k-m}, & j+k \geq m \end{cases}$$

2. The associativity is easy to show.
3. Take the identity $e = 1$.
4. For $\forall \zeta^k \in u_m$, we take the inverse ζ^{m-k} .

■

Proposition 1.3 The set $\mathcal{G} = \{\text{bijections of } \mathbb{R}\}$ associated with the **composition** operator is a group.

Definition 1.2 [bijection] The bijection contains **injective**, i.e., $f(x) = f(y)$ implies $x = y$; and **surjective**, i.e., $\forall y \in \mathcal{B}, \exists x \in \mathcal{A}$ s.t. $f(x) = y$.

■

Proof. 1. $\forall f, g \in \mathcal{G}$,

- Injective: take $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $(f \odot g)(x) = (f \odot g)(y)$, it follows that

$$f(g(x)) = f(g(y)) \implies g(x) = g(y) \implies x = y.$$

- Subjective: take $y \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $f(z) = y$. Hence, $\exists x \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $g(x) = z$, which implies $f(g(x)) = y$.

2. For any functions $f, g, h \in \mathcal{G}$,

$$((f \odot g) \odot h)(x) = (f \odot g)(h(x)) = f(g(h(x))), \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Similarly,

$$(f \odot (g \odot h))(x) = f((g \odot h)(x)) = f(g(h(x))), \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$$

3. Define $e : x \mapsto x$. Then $e \in \mathcal{G}$. It follows that

$$(e * g)(x) = e(g(x)) = g(x)$$

Similarly, $(g * e)(x) = g(x)$. Hence, e is the identity.

4. For $\forall f \in \mathcal{G}$, take $f^{-1} : f(x) \mapsto x$. Firstly verify f^{-1} is a bijection. Then we have

$$f^{-1} \odot f = f \odot f^{-1} = e.$$

■

Recall a definition from Linear Algebra:

$$\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) := \{\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid \det(\mathbf{A}) \neq 0\}$$

where $\mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$ denotes the set of $n \times n$ matrices over \mathbb{R} .

Proposition 1.4 The set $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ associated with the matrix multiplication operator is the general linear group.

Proof. 1. $\forall \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$, we have $\mathbf{AB} \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ since

$$\det(\mathbf{AB}) = \det(\mathbf{A}) \det(\mathbf{B}) \neq 0$$

2. Associativity of matrix multiplication is easy to verify
3. Take the identity $e := \mathbf{I}_n$
4. Inverse is \mathbf{A}^{-1} .

■

R $\text{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) := \{\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid \det(\mathbf{A}) = 1\}$ is a special linear group.

Proposition 1.5 Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, for the set

$$\mathbb{Z}_n := \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$$

associated with the operation

$$+_n \text{ such that } a+_nb = \begin{cases} a+b, & \text{if } a+b \leq n-1 \\ a+b-n, & \text{if } a+b \geq n \end{cases}$$

Proof. 1. Closed under operation

2. Associativity:

$$(a+_nb+_nc) = a+b+c \in \mathbb{Z}_n \text{ or } a+b+c-n \in \mathbb{Z}_n \text{ or } a+b+c-2n \in \mathbb{Z}_n$$

3. Identity?

4. Inverse?

■

In the future we abuse the operator $+$ to denote the $+_n$ for \mathbb{Z}_n .

Theorem 1.1 Given $g_1, \dots, g_n \in \mathcal{G}$, the product is independent from adding brackets.

Proof. We show it by induction. Let $\mathcal{P}(n)$ denotes the product is the same whatever different ways pf putting brackets on g_1, \dots, g_n

1. Easy to verify $\mathcal{P}(1)$ is true.
2. Assume $\mathcal{P}(n)$ is true for $n \leq k$. Consider $n = k + 1$. For $\forall m \leq n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (g_1 g_2 \dots g_m)(g_{m+1} \dots g_{k+1}) &= (g_1(g_2 \dots g_m))(g_{m+1} \dots g_{k+1}) \\
 &= g_1((g_2 \dots g_m)(g_{m+1} \dots g_{k+1})) \\
 &= g_1(g_2 \dots g_{k+1}) \\
 &= g_1 \dots g_{k+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

■

Theorem 1.2 Each group \mathcal{G} has the unique identity.

Proof. Let $e, e' \in \mathcal{G}$ be two identities. By definition,

$$e' = e' * e = e.$$

■