

**A FIRST COURSE
IN
ABSTRACT ALGEBRA**

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MAT3004 Notebook

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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 2

Week2

2.1. Tuesday

2.1.1. Review

Note that a group has the property of closeness, associativity, identity and its inverse

2.1.2. Cyclic groups

Definition 2.1 [Abelian] Let $(\mathcal{G}, *)$ be a group, it is said to be **abelian** if

$$a * b = b * a, \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{G}$$

Definition 2.2 [Order] Let \mathcal{G} be a group with the identity e . The **order** of an element $g \in \mathcal{G}$ is denoted by $|g|$, i.e., the smallest $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ such that $g^n = e$. If $|g| = \infty$, then g has **infinite order**.

Definition 2.3 [Periodic Group] A group is said to be

1. **periodic** (torsion) if every element from this group is of finite order.
2. **torsion-free** if every non-identity has infinite order.

Note that not torsion is not equivalent to torsion-free; not torsion-free is not equivalent

to torsion.

Proposition 2.1 If $|\mathcal{G}| < \infty$, then $|g| < \infty$ for $\forall g \in \mathcal{G}$.

Proof. If $|g| = \infty$, then

$$\{e, g, g^2, \dots, g^n, \dots\} \subseteq \mathcal{G},$$

which implies $|\mathcal{G}| = \infty$. ■

Proposition 2.2 Let \mathcal{G} be a group with identity e . If $g^n = e$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$, then $|g| \mid n$.

Proof. Let $m := |g| \leq n$. Recall the ideas from discrete mathematics:

Theorem 2.1 — well-ordering principle. Any $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ has a least element (Axiom).

Theorem 2.2 — Division Theorem. For $\forall m \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$, there always $\exists q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$m = nq + r,$$

where $0 \leq r < n$.

Note that the power g^n can be rewritten as:

$$g^n := g^{mq+r} = (g^m)^q \cdot g^r = e.$$

Since $(g^m)^q$ equals to e , we imply $g^r = e, r < m$, i.e., $r = 0$. ■

R Not that the condition $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ can be relaxed into $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Definition 2.4 [cyclic] A group \mathcal{G} is **cyclic** if there $\exists g \in \mathcal{G}$ such that for $\forall x \in \mathcal{G}$, there always $\exists n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$x = g^n.$$

We rewrite the group as $\mathcal{G} = \langle g \rangle$, we call g as the **generator** of \mathcal{G} . The notation $\langle g \rangle$

means:

$$\langle g \rangle := \{\dots, g^{-2}, g^{-1}, e, g, g^2, \dots\}$$

Proposition 2.3 Given a group \mathcal{G} and $g \in \mathcal{G}$, we have $|\langle g \rangle| = |g|$.

Proof. • If $|g| = \infty$, the result is trivial.

• If $|g| = n$, we imply $|\langle g \rangle| = |\{e, g, \dots, g^{n-1}\}| = n$.

Definition 2.5 Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ not all zero. The greatest common divisor is defined as:

$$\gcd(a, b) := \text{the greatest integer that divides } a \text{ and } b.$$

Theorem 2.3 — Bezout. Provided with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ not all zero. Then there exists $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$sa + tb = \gcd(a, b)$$

■ **Example 2.1** 1. $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ is cyclic with generator ± 1

2. $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +) = \langle k \rangle$, where $\gcd(k, n) = 1$. This is because we can always find $s > 0$ and $t < 0$ such that $sa + tb = 1$, i.e.,

$$1 = \underbrace{k + \dots + k}_{s \text{ terms}} \in \mathbb{Z}_n$$

3. $(u_m, \cdot) = \langle \zeta_m^k \rangle$, where $\zeta_m = \exp(\frac{2\pi i}{m})$ and $\gcd(k, m) = 1$. This is because we can similarly construct $s > 0$ s.t. $(\zeta_m^k)^s = \zeta_m$.

Proposition 2.4 Every cyclic group is abelian.

Proof. As $\mathcal{G} = \langle g \rangle$, for $\forall x, y \in \mathcal{G}$, we have

$$x \cdot y = g^m \cdot g^n = g^{m+n} = g^n \cdot g^m = y \cdot x.$$

■

- R** The converse of proposition(2.4) is not true. For example, $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ is abelian, but it is not cyclic, i.e., if $(\mathbb{Q}, +) = \langle \frac{n}{m} \rangle$, we find $\frac{n}{2m} \notin \langle \frac{n}{m} \rangle$.

Definition 2.6 Let X be a set. A **permutation** of X is a **bijection** of X . We denote

$$\text{Sym}(X) = \{\text{all permutations of } X\}$$

■

Proposition 2.5 $\text{Sym}(X)$ is a group under composition operation.

- Proof.*
1. For $\forall \alpha, \beta \in \text{Sym}(X)$, we have $\alpha \circ \beta \in \text{Sym}(X)$ as the composition of bijections is also bijection.
 2. For $\forall \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \text{Sym}(X)$, we have $(\alpha \circ \beta) \circ \gamma = \alpha \circ (\beta \circ \gamma)$.
 3. identity = $\text{id} \in \text{Sym}(X)$
 4. For $\forall \sigma \in \text{Sym}(X)$, we choose $\rho \in \text{Sym}(X)$ s.t.

$$\rho : \sigma(x) \mapsto x, \forall x \in X$$

It follows that $\rho \circ \sigma = \text{id}$, since

$$\sigma \circ \rho(\sigma(x)) = \sigma(\rho \circ \sigma(x)) = \sigma(x)$$

■

Let $X = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, we denote $S_n = \text{Sym}(X)$. Describe $\sigma \in S_n$ by:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \cdots & \sigma(n) \end{pmatrix}$$

Note that $|S_n| = n!$

■ **Example 2.2** Consider $\mathcal{G} := S_3$, then $\sigma, \beta \in \mathcal{G}$:

$$\sigma := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} := (1, 2, 3) \quad \beta := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} := (1, 2)$$

Then we compute the composite $\sigma \circ \beta$:

$$\sigma \circ \beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\beta \circ \sigma$:

$$\beta \circ \sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\sigma \circ \sigma \circ \sigma$:

$$\sigma \circ \sigma \circ \sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}^3 = \text{id},$$

which is said to be **3-cycle**, which will be talked in future. ■

Ⓡ In general, S_n is not **ablian** for $n \geq 3$.

In general, we write the k -cycle permutation as:

$$\alpha = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$$

where $i_1 \mapsto i_2 \mapsto i_3 \mapsto \cdots \mapsto i_k \mapsto i_1$.

■ **Example 2.3** Consider $\sigma = (15)(246) \in S_6$, i.e.,

$$\sigma = 1 \mapsto 5 \mapsto 1; \quad 2 \mapsto 4 \mapsto 6 \mapsto 2; \quad 3 \mapsto 3$$

and $\alpha = (13)(45) \in S_6$. We study the composition $\sigma \circ \alpha$:

$$\sigma \circ \alpha = [(15)(246)] \circ [(13)(45)] = (135624)$$

and

$$\alpha \circ \sigma = (13)(45)(15)(246) = (146253)$$

Proposition 2.6 Each $\sigma \in S_n$ is either a cycle or a product of disjoint cycle.

Disjoint cycles commute with one another.

Definition 2.7 2-cycle is called a **transposition**

Proposition 2.7 $\sigma \in S_n$ can be written as a product of transpositions.

Proof. Due to proposition(2.6) and

$$(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k) = (i_1 i_k) \cdots (i_1 i_3)(i_1 i_2)$$

■

For $\sigma \in S_n$, we have

$$\sigma(i_1, \dots, i_k) \sigma^{-1} = (\sigma(i_1), \dots, \sigma(i_k))$$