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# Chapter 1

## Preliminary

$R \subset A \times A$  is an equivalence relations if

**Reflexive:**  $\forall a \in A, (a, a) \in R$ .

**Symmetric:**  $(a, b) \in R \implies (b, a) \in R$ .

**Transitive:**  $(a, b) \in R, (b, c) \in R \implies (a, c) \in R$ .

A binary relations can be also denoted as  $aRb$  whenever  $(a, b) \in R$ .

If  $A$  is a set and if  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $A$ , then the equivalence class of  $a \in A$  is the set  $\{x \in A \mid x \sim a\}$  denoted by  $\text{cl}(a)$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** *Equivalence classes partition the set into mutually disjoint subsets and conversely, mutually disjoint subsets give rise to equivalence classes.*

If  $S$  and  $T$  are non-empty sets, then a mapping from  $S$  to  $T$  is a subset  $M \subset S \times T$  such that for every  $s \in S$  there is a unique  $t \in T$  that  $(s, t) \in M$ .  $\sigma : S \rightarrow T$  maybe denoted as  $t = s\sigma$  or  $t = \sigma(s)$ .



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# Chapter 2

## Group Theory

### 2.1 Introduction

**Definition:** A set  $S$  equipped with an associative binary operation is a **semigroup**.

A semigroup can have multiple left or right identities. However, if it has both left identity,  $e$ , and right identity,  $f$ , then those two are equal since  $e = ef = f$ . Two sided identity are unique. We have the same story with inverses.

**Definition:** A non-empty set of elements  $G$  together with a binary operation  $\circ$  are said to be a **group** if

**Closure:**  $\forall a, b \in G, a \circ b \in G$ .

**Associative:**  $\forall a, b, c \in G, (a \circ b) \circ c = a \circ (b \circ c)$ .

**Identity:**  $\exists e \in G$  such that  $\forall a \in G, a \circ e = e \circ a = a$ .

**Inverse:**  $\forall a \in G \exists b \in G$  such that  $a \circ b = b \circ a = e$ .

**Definition:** A group  $G$  is said to be **abelian** or **commutative** if for any two element  $a$  and  $b$  commute. i.e.  $a \circ b = b \circ a$ .

**Definition:** The number of elements in a group is called the **order** of the group and it is denoted by  $o(G)$ .

**Definition:** Let  $\langle a \rangle = \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . If for some choice of  $a$ ,  $G = \langle a \rangle$ , then  $G$  is said to be a **cyclic group**. More generally, for a set  $W \subset G$ ,  $\langle W \rangle = \bigcap W \subset H \subset GH$  where  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Given  $a, b \in G$  the equation  $ax = b$  and  $ya = b$  have unique solutions for  $x, y \in G$ .*

*Proof.* Note that  $a^{-1}$  and  $b^{-1}$  are unique. Therefore,  $x = a^{-1}b$  and  $y = ba^{-1}$  are unique.  $\square$

### Exercises

1. Let  $S$  be a finite semi-group. Prove that there exists  $e \in S$  such that  $e^2 = e$ .

*Proof.* Pick  $a \in S$  and consider  $a_i = a^{2^i}$  for  $i \geq 1$ . After some point,  $a_i$ s repeat, by the pigeon hole principle. Let that point be  $a_j$ . Therefore, for some  $m \geq 1$ .

$$a_j = (a_j)^{2^m}$$

Let  $e = a_j^{2^m-1}$ , then

$$e^2 = a_j^{2^{m+1}-2} = a_j^{2^m} a_j^{2^m-2} = a_j a_j^{2^m-2} = e$$

we are done. ■

2. Show that if a group  $G$  is abelian, then for  $a, b \in G$  and any integer  $n$ ,  $(ab)^n = a^n b^n$ .

*Proof.* Induct over positive  $n$ . It is trivially true for  $n = 1$ . Suppose it is true for  $n = k$ , then

$$(ab)^{k+1} = (ab)^k ab = a^k b^k ab = a^k ab^k b = a^{k+1} b^{k+1}$$

For negative  $n$ , note that

$$(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1} a^{-1} = a^{-1} b^{-1} \implies (ab)^n = ((ab)^{-1})^{-n} = (a^{-1} b^{-1})^{-n} = a^n b^n$$

hence it is true for all integers  $n$ . ■

3. If a group has an even order, then there exists  $a \neq e$  such that  $a^2 = e$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A = \{g \mid g \neq g^{-1}\}$  and  $B = \{g \mid g = g^{-1}\}$ . Note that,  $|A|$  is even since  $g \in A \implies g^{-1} \in A$ . Moreover,  $o(G) = |A| + |B|$ , therefore  $|B|$  must be even and since  $e \in B$ ,  $|B| \geq 2$ . ■

4. For any  $n > 2$  construct a non-abelian group of order  $2n$ .

*Proof.* Consider  $\phi, \psi$  where  $\psi^n = \phi^2 = e$  and  $\psi\phi = \phi\psi^{-1}$ . Then

$$G = \{I, \phi, \psi, \psi^2, \dots, \psi^{n-1}, \phi\psi, \dots, \phi\psi^{n-1}\}$$

is a group of order  $2n$ . Because, by the product rules defined, any combination of  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  can be reduced to  $\phi^b \psi^k$  where  $b = 0, 1$  and  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ . It is clearly non-abelian as well. ■

5. Find the order of  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  and  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  for a prime  $p$ .

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} o(\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)) &= (p+1)p(p-1)^2 \\ o(\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)) &= (p+1)p(p-1) \end{aligned}$$

which we can calculate with some basic casing. ■

## 2.2 Subgroup

**Definition:** A non-empty subset  $H$  of a group  $G$  is called a **subgroup** if under the product in  $G$ ,  $H$  itself forms a group.

**Lemma 2.2.**  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if

1.  $\forall a, b \in H, ab \in H$ .
2.  $\forall a \in H, a^{-1} \in H$ .

*Proof.* If  $H$  is a subgroup, then the conditions hold. Suppose  $H$  is a subset of  $G$  that satisfies the conditions. Then,

1.  $e \in H$  since  $(a \in H \implies a^{-1} \in H) \implies e = aa^{-1} \in H$ .
2. Associativity is inherited from  $G$ .

invertibility and closure are given from the conditions. Therefore,  $H$  is a subgroup.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** If  $H$  is a non-empty finite subset of a group  $G$  and  $H$  is closed under multiplication, then  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

*Proof.* Since  $H$  is non-empty there exists a  $a \in H$ . By closure,  $a^n$  for positive integer  $n$ , are also in  $H$ . We know that for some  $N$ ,  $a^N = e$  and therefore  $a^{-1} = a^{N-1} \in H$ . By ,  $H$  is a subgroup.  $\square$

**Definition:** Let  $G$  be a group and  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ . For  $a, b \in G$  we say that  $a$  is congruent to  $b \pmod H$ , written as  $a \equiv b \pmod H$  if  $ab^{-1} \in H$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** The relation  $a \equiv b \pmod H$  is an equivalence relation.

*Proof.* We show the equivalence axioms:

1. for any  $a$ ,  $a \equiv a \pmod H$  because,  $aa^{-1} = e \in H$ .
2. for any  $a, b$ ,  $a \equiv b \pmod H \implies b \equiv a \pmod H$  since  $ab^{-1} \in H$  because of invertibility implies that  $(ab^{-1})^{-1} = ba^{-1} \in H$ .
3. for any  $a, b, c$ ,  $a \equiv b \pmod H, b \equiv c \pmod H \implies a \equiv c \pmod H$  since  $ab^{-1}, bc^{-1} \in H$  because of closure implies that  $ab^{-1}bc^{-1} = ac^{-1} \in H$ .  $\square$

**Definition:** If  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  and  $a \in G$ , then  $Ha = \{ha \mid h \in H\}$  is a **right coset** of  $H$  in  $G$ . Similarly,  $aH = \{ah \mid h \in H\}$  is a **left coset** of  $H$  in  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** For all  $a \in G$ ,

$$Ha = \{x \in G \mid a \equiv x \pmod H\}$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $x \in G$  and  $x \equiv a \pmod H$ . That is,  $xa^{-1} = h$  for some  $h \in H$ . Then,  $x = ha$ . Suppose  $h \in H$  and  $x = ha$ . Then,  $xa^{-1} = h$  and hence  $x \equiv a \pmod H$ .  $\square$

This implies, two right/left coset of  $H$  are either identical or disjoint.

**Lemma 2.6.** *There is a one-to-one correspondence between any two right/left cosets of  $H$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $R_1, R_2$  be two right cosets of  $H$  with  $a_1 \in R_1$  and  $a_2 \in R_2$ . Note that,  $R_1 = Ha_1$  and  $R_2 = Ha_2$ , therefore the map  $g \mapsto ga_1^{-1}a_2$  is a bijective map from  $R_1$  to  $R_2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.7 (Lagrange's theorem).** *If  $G$  is a finite group and  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , then  $o(H) \mid o(G)$ .*

*Proof.* By and , and from finiteness of  $G$ , the order of  $G$  is equal to the number of right cosets multiplied by the cardinality of a right coset which is equal to the order of  $H$ . Hence,  $o(H) \mid o(G)$   $\blacksquare$

**Definition:** If  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , the **index** of  $H$  in  $G$  is the number of distinct right cosets of  $H$ , denoted by  $[G : H]$  or  $i_G(H)$ .

**Definition:** Let  $G$  be a group and  $a \in G$ , then the **order** or **period** of  $a$  is the least positive integer  $m$  such that  $a^m = e$ . If no such integer exists we say that  $a$  is of infinite order. The order of  $a$  is denoted by  $\text{ord}_G(a)$ .

**Corollary 2.8.** *If  $G$  is a finite group, then*

1.  $o(G) = i_G(H)o(H)$ .
2.  $\text{ord}_G(a) \mid o(G)$ .
3.  $a^{o(G)} = e$ .
4. *If  $o(G)$  is a prime, then  $G$  is cyclic.*

## 2.3 A counting principle

Let  $H$  and  $K$  be two subgroups of  $G$ , then

$$HK = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\}$$

**Lemma 2.9.**  *$HK$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if  $HK = KH$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $HK$  is a subgroup. If  $hk \in HK$ , then

$$k^{-1}h^{-1} \in HK \implies k^{-1} \in H, h^{-1} \in K \implies k \in H, h \in K \implies hk \in KH$$

hence  $HK \subset KH$ . If  $kh \in KH$ , then

$$hk \in HK \implies k^{-1} \in H, h^{-1} \in K \implies k \in H, h \in K \implies kh \in HK$$

thus  $HK = KH$ . Suppose  $HK = KH$  with  $h_1k_1, h_2k_2 \in HK$ .

1. for closure we have

$$h_1k_1h_2k_2 = h_1k_1(k'_2h'_2) = h_1(k_1k'_2)h'_2 = h_1(k^*h'_2) = h_1h''_2k^{*'}.$$

2. for inverse

$$(h_1k_1)^{-1} = k_1^{-1}h_1^{-1} = h'_1k'_1$$



**Corollary 2.10.** *If  $H$  and  $K$  are subgroups of an abelian group  $G$ , then  $HK$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .*

**Lemma 2.11.** *If  $H$  and  $K$  are finite subgroups  $G$ , then*

$$|HK| = \frac{o(H)o(K)}{o(H \cap K)}$$

*Proof.* If  $h_1 \in H \cap K$  then  $hk = (hh_1)(h_1^{-1}k)$ . Therefore,  $hk$  appears at least  $o(H \cap K)$  times. If  $hk = h'k'$ , then  $h'^{-1}h = k'k^{-1} \in H \cap K$ . Let  $u = h'^{-1}h$  then  $h' = hu^{-1}$  and  $k' = uk$ . Thus, all duplicates are accounted for.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.12.** *If  $H$  and  $K$  are subgroups of  $G$  and  $o(H), o(K) > \sqrt{o(G)}$ , then  $H \cap K \neq \{e\}$ .*

*Proof.*  $HK \subset G$  therefore,  $|HK| \leq o(G)$  and

$$o(G) \geq |HK| = \frac{o(H)o(K)}{o(H \cap K)} > \frac{o(G)}{o(H \cap K)}$$

which implies that  $o(H \cap K) > 1$ .  $\blacksquare$

## Exercises

1. Let  $G$  be a group such that the intersection of all of its subgroups that are different from  $\{e\}$  is different from  $\{e\}$ . Prove that every element in  $G$  has finite order.

*Proof.* For the sake of contradiction, suppose  $a \in G$  has infinite order. Then,  $a^k$  are all different and

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \langle a^k \rangle = \{e\}$$

which is a contradiction.  $\blacksquare$

2. Show that there is one-to-one correspondence between the right and left cosets of a subgroup.
3. Suppose  $H$  and  $K$  are finite index subgroups in  $G$ . Show that  $H \cap K$  is a finite subgroup in  $G$ .

*Proof.* Let  $Ha_1, \dots, Ha_n$  be the right cosets of  $H$  in  $G$  and  $Kb_1, \dots, Kb_m$  be the right cosets of  $K$  in  $G$ . Then,

$$G = G \cap G = \bigcap_i Ha_i \cap \bigcap_j Kb_j = \bigcap_{i,j} Ha_i \cap Kb_j$$

Suppose  $Ha_i \cap Kb_j$  is not empty. Let  $g \in Ha_i \cap Kb_j$ , then  $Hg = Ha_i$  and  $Kg = Kb_j$ . Thus,

$$Ha_i \cap Kb_j = Hg \cap Kg = (H \cap K)g$$

Therefore,  $Ha_i \cap Kb_j$  are either empty or a right coset of  $H \cap K$ . Since there finitely many  $Ha_i \cap Kb_j$ , there finitely many right cosets of  $H \cap K$  in  $G$ . Moreover,  $[G : H \cap K] \leq$

$[G : H][G : K]$  by this construction. Note that,  $H \cap K$  is finite index in  $H$ , and let  $(H \cap K)c_1, \dots, (H \cap K)c_l$  be the right cosets of  $H \cap K$  in  $H$ . We claim that  $(H \cap K)c_r a_i$  are the right cosets of  $H \cap K$  in  $G$ . By definition, for each  $x \in G$ , there exists  $i$  such that  $x \in Ha_i$  and hence  $x = ha_i$  for some  $h \in H$ . Similarly, there exists  $r$  such that  $h \in (H \cap K)c_r$  and hence  $h = fc_r$  for some  $f \in H \cap K$ . Therefore,  $x = fc_r a_i$  and  $x \in (H \cap K)c_r a_i$ . Lastly, we must show that  $(H \cap K)c_r a_i$  are disjoint. Consider  $(H \cap K)c_{r_1} a_{i_1}$  and  $(H \cap K)c_{r_2} a_{i_2}$ . Since  $(H \cap K)c_{r_1}, (H \cap K)c_{r_2} \subset H$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (H \cap K)c_{r_1} a_{i_1} = (H \cap K)c_{r_2} a_{i_2} &\implies a_{i_1} = a_{i_2}, (H \cap K)c_{r_1} = (H \cap K)c_{r_2} \\ &\implies a_{i_1} = a_{i_2}, c_{r_1} = c_{r_2} \end{aligned}$$

As a result,  $[G : H \cap K] = [G : H][H : H \cap K]$ . ■

4. Let  $H$  be a finite index subgroup in  $G$ . Show that there is only finitely many subgroups of form  $aHa^{-1}$  in  $G$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a_1H, \dots, a_nH$  be left cosets of  $H$ . Then,  $Ha_1^{-1}, \dots, Ha_n^{-1}$  are right cosets of  $H$ . Suppose  $aH = a_iH$ , then  $Ha^{-1} = Ha_i^{-1}$  and therefore,  $aHa^{-1} = a_iHa_i^{-1}$ . Since there are finitely many  $a_iHa_i^{-1}$ , then there are finitely many  $aHa^{-1}$ . ■

5.

## 2.4 Normal subgroups

**Definition:** A subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  is **normal** if  $\forall g \in G, n \in N, gng^{-1} \in N$ .

**Lemma 2.13.**  $N$  is normal if and only if  $gNg^{-1} = N$  for every  $g \in G$ .

**Lemma 2.14.**  $N$  is a normal subgroup if and only if every left coset of  $N$  is a right coset.

**Definition:**  $G/N$  is called a **quotient group** is the set of all right cosets of  $N$ .

## 2.5 Homomorphism

**Definition:** A mapping  $\phi$  from a group  $G$  to another group  $\bar{G}$  is a **homomorphism** if for all  $a, b \in G$

$$\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$$

**Lemma 2.15.** Suppose  $G$  is a group,  $N$  a normal subgroup of  $G$ ,  $\phi : G \rightarrow G/N$  given by  $\phi(x) = Nx$  for all  $x \in G$ . Then,  $\phi$  is a homomorphism.

**Definition:** If  $\phi$  is a homomorphism of  $G$  into  $\bar{G}$ , the **kernel** of  $\phi$ ,  $K_\phi$  is defined as  $K_\phi = \{x \in G \mid \phi(x) = \bar{e}\}$ .

**Lemma 2.16.**  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is a homomorphism if

1.  $\phi(e) = \bar{e}$ .
2.  $\phi(x^{-1}) = (\phi(x))^{-1}$ .

**Lemma 2.17.** *If  $\phi$  is a homomorphism, then  $K_\phi$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .*

**Lemma 2.18.** *If  $\phi$  is a homomorphism, then the set all iverse images of  $\bar{g} \in \bar{G}$  under  $\phi$  is given by  $K_\phi x$  for any particular inverse image of  $\bar{g}$ .*

**Definition:** A homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is an **isomorphism** if  $\phi$  is one-to-one.

**Definition:** Two groups  $G$  and  $\bar{G}$  are **isomorphic** if there exists an isomorphism of  $G$  onto  $\bar{G}$ . Isomorphic groups are denoted by  $G \approx \bar{G}$ .

**Corollary 2.19.**  *$\phi$  is isomorphism if and only if  $K_\phi = \{e\}$ .*

**Theorem 2.20.** *If  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is a homomorphism, then  $G/K_\phi \approx \bar{G}$*

Thus, we can find all homomorphic images of  $G$  by going through normal subgroups of  $G$ .

**Definition:** A group is **simple** if it has no non-trivial homomorphic images.

**Theorem 2.21.** *Suoppose  $G$  is a finite abelian group, and  $p \mid o(G)$  where  $p$  is a prime number. Then, there is an element  $a \neq e$  such that  $a^p = e$ .*

**Theorem 2.22.** *Suppose  $G$  is a finite abelian group and  $p^\alpha \parallel o(G)$ , then  $G$  has a unique subgroup of order  $p^\alpha$ .*

**Lemma 2.23.** *Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is a homomorphism and  $\bar{H}$  is a subgroup of  $\bar{G}$ . Let  $H = \{x \in G \mid \phi(x) \in \bar{H}\}$ . Then,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  and  $H \supset K_\phi$ . If  $\bar{H}$  is normal in  $\bar{G}$ , then  $H$  is normal. Moreover, this association sets up a one-to-one mapping from the set of all subgroups  $\bar{G}$  onto the set of all subgroups of  $G$  which contain  $K_\phi$ .*

**Theorem 2.24.** *Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  be a homomorphism,  $\bar{N}$  a normal subgroup of  $\bar{G}$ , and  $N = \{x \in G \mid \phi(x) \in \bar{N}\}$ . Then,  $G/N \approx \bar{G}/\bar{N}$  if and only if  $G/N \approx (G/K_\phi)/(N/K_\phi)$ .*

## 2.6 Automorphism

**Definition:** An isomorphism of a group onto itself is called an **automorphism**.

**Lemma 2.25.** *If  $G$  is a group, then  $\mathcal{A}(G)$ , the set of all automorphisms of  $G$  is also a group. The  $\mathcal{A}(G)$  is also denoted by  $\text{Aut}(G)$ .*

**Example 2.1.**  $T_g : G \rightarrow G$  with  $gT_g = g^{-1}xg$ .  $T_g$  is an automorphisms.  $T_g$  is called the **inner automorphism corresponding to  $g$** . Let  $\mathcal{T}(G) = \{T_g \in \text{Aut}(G) \mid g \in G\}$  is the **inner automorphism group** and is also denoted by  $\text{Inn}(G)$ .  $\Psi : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(G)$  given by  $g\Psi = T_g$  is a homomorphism. The kernel of  $\Psi$  is the **center** of  $G$ ,  $Z(G)$ , the set of the elements that commute with all other elements. Note that, if  $g_0 \in K_\Psi$ , then  $T_{g_0} = I$ , hence  $g_0^{-1}xg_0 = x$  implying  $g_0x = xg_0$  for all  $x \in G$ . If  $g_0 \in Z(G)$ , then  $xg_0 = g_0x$  for all  $x$ , thus  $T_{g_0} = I$  and  $g_0 \in K_\Psi$ .

**Lemma 2.26.**  $\text{Inn}(G) \sim G/Z$ .

**Lemma 2.27.** *Let  $G$  be a group and  $\phi$  be an automorphism of  $G$ . If  $a \in G$  is of order  $o(a) > 0$ , then  $o(\phi(a)) = o(a)$ .*

## 2.7 Cayley's theorem

**Theorem 2.28 (Cayley).** *Every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $A(S)$  for some set  $S$ .*

**Theorem 2.29.** *If  $G$  is a group,  $H$  a subgroup of  $G$ , and  $S$  is the set of all right cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ , then there is a homomorphism  $\theta : G \rightarrow A(S)$  and the kernel of  $\theta$  is the largest normal subgroup of  $G$  which is contained in  $H$ .*

**Lemma 2.30.** *If  $G$  is a finite group, and  $H \neq G$  is a subgroup of  $G$  such that  $o(G) \nmid i(H)!$ , then  $H$  must contain a non-trivial normal subgroup of  $G$ . In particular,  $G$  is not simple.*

## 2.8 Permutation group

Suppose  $S$  is a finite set having  $n$  elements  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . If  $\phi \in A(S)$ , then  $\phi$  is a one-to-one correspondence and it can be represented as

$$\phi : \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & \dots & x_n \\ x_{i_1} & x_{i_2} & \dots & x_{i_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $x_{i_j} = \phi(x_j)$ . More simply

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ i_1 & i_2 & \dots & i_n \end{pmatrix}$$

By considering composition of  $\theta, \psi \in A(S)$ , we can define multiplication on their representation.

For  $\theta \in A(S)$  and  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a \equiv b \iff a = b\theta^i$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . This defines an equivalence relation.

–add the axioms

We call the equivalence classes of  $s \in S$ , the **orbit** of  $s$  under  $\theta$ . The orbit of  $s$  consists of all elements in form of  $s\theta^i$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $S$  is finite, then there is a smallest positive integer  $l = l(s)$  such that  $s\theta^l = s$ . By **cycle** of  $\theta$  we mean the ordered set  $(s, s\theta, \dots, s\theta^{l-1})$ .

**Lemma 2.31.** *Every permutation is a product of its cycles.*

**Lemma 2.32.** *Every cycle can be written as a product of 2-cycle or **transpositions**.*

**Definition:** A permutation  $\theta \in S_n$  is said to be an even permutation if it can be represented as a product of an even number of transpositions,

– add well-definition of even

Let  $A_n \subset S_n$  be the set of even permutations.  $A_n$  is a subgroup of  $S_n$  and it is called the **alternating group**.

**Lemma 2.33.** *The alternating group is a normal subgroup of  $S_n$  of index 2, .*