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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Preliminary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Group Theory</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Introduction . . . . .	5
2.2	Subgroup . . . . .	7
2.3	A counting principle . . . . .	8
2.4	Normal subgroups . . . . .	10
2.5	Homomorphism . . . . .	11
2.6	Automorphism . . . . .	14
2.7	Cayley's theorem . . . . .	15
2.8	Permutation group . . . . .	16
2.9	Another counting principle . . . . .	18
2.10	Sylow's theorem . . . . .	20
2.11	Direct product . . . . .	24
2.12	Finite abelian groups . . . . .	25
<b>3</b>	<b>Ring Theory</b>	<b>27</b>
3.1	Some special classes of ring . . . . .	27
3.2	Homomorphisms . . . . .	28
3.3	Ideals and quotient ring . . . . .	29
3.4	More ideals and quotient rings . . . . .	29
3.5	The field of quotients of integral domain . . . . .	29
3.6	Euclidean ring . . . . .	30
3.7	A particular Euclidean ring . . . . .	31
3.8	Polynomial rings . . . . .	32
3.9	Polynomials over field of rationals . . . . .	33
3.10	Polynomial rings over commutative rings . . . . .	33



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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

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



**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. If an abelian group has subgroups of orders  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively, then show it has a subgroup whose order is the least common multiple of  $m$  and  $n$ .
6. Let  $G$  be a finite (abelian) group in which the number of solutions in  $G$  of the equation  $x^n = e$  is at most  $n$  for every positive integer  $n$ . Prove that  $G$  must be a cyclic group.

## 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  $g \in G$ .

*Proof.* By definition,  $gNg^{-1} \subset N$ . Let  $n \in N$ , then  $g^{-1}ng = n'$  for some  $n' \in N$ . Hence,  $n \in gNg^{-1}$  for all  $n \in N$ . □

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

*Proof.* If  $N$  is normal, then by 2.13,  $gN = Ng$  for all  $g$ . Suppose, for all  $g \in G$ ,  $gN = Nh$  for some  $h \in G$ . Then,  $h = gn \implies gN = Nggn$  for  $n \in N$ . This implies,  $gNn^{-1} = gN = Ng$  and therefore,  $gNg^{-1} = N$  which by 2.13 means that  $N$  is normal. □

**Lemma 2.15.**  $N$  is a normal subgroup if and only if the product of two right cosets of  $N$  is a right coset as well.

*Proof.* If  $N$  is normal, then

$$NaNb = N(aN)b = N(Na)b = Nab$$

Then, suppose  $NaNb = Nc$  for all  $a, b \in G$  and some  $c \in G$ . This implies  $NaNb = Nab$  and therefore,  $NaN a^{-1} = N \implies NaN = Na$ .

$$\begin{aligned} NaN = Na &\implies \forall n, an \in Na \implies aN \subset Na \\ Na^{-1}N = Na^{-1} &\implies \forall n \exists n', a^{-1}n = n'a^{-1} \implies na = an' \implies Na \subset aN \end{aligned}$$

therefore,  $aN = Na$ . □

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

**Theorem 2.16.** *If  $N$  is normal in  $G$ , then  $G/N$  is a group. Furthermore, for finite  $G$ ,  $o(G/N) = \frac{o(G)}{o(N)}$ .*

*Proof.* Checking axioms is pretty easy. Note that,  $o(G/N) = i_G(N)$ . ■

## Exercises

1. The groups in which all subgroups are normal are called **Dedekind groups**. Non-abelian dedekind groups are called **Hamiltonian groups**. Show that quaternion group is a Hamiltonian group.
2. Show that if  $K$  is a normal subgroup of  $N$  and  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , then  $K$  is not necessarily a subgroup of  $G$ .

## 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 2.17.** *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.*

*Proof.* Note that  $\phi(xy) = Nxy$  and  $\phi(x)\phi(y) = NxNy = Nxy$ . □

**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 2.18.** *If  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is a homomorphism, then*

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

*Proof.*

$$\phi(xe) = \phi(x) = \phi(x)\phi(e) \implies \phi(e) = \bar{e}$$

and

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

□

**Lemma 2.19.** *If  $\phi$  is a homomorphism, then  $K_\phi$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Pick an arbitray  $x \in G$  and  $y \in K_\phi$ . Then,

$$\phi(xyx^{-1}) = \phi(x)\phi(y)\phi(x^{-1}) = \bar{e}$$

hence,  $xyx^{-1} \in K_\phi$ . □

**Lemma 2.20.** *If  $\phi$  is a homomorphism, then the set all inverse images of  $\bar{g} \in \bar{G}$  under  $\phi$  is given by  $K_\phi x$  for any particular inverse image of  $\bar{g}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $y$  is another inverse image of  $\bar{g}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(y) = \bar{g} & & \phi(x) = \bar{g} \\ \implies \phi(yx^{-1}) = \bar{e} & & \implies yx^{-1} \in K_\phi \end{aligned}$$

which means  $y \in K_\phi x$ . Also, clearly each  $y \in K_\phi x$  is an inverse image of  $\bar{g}$ .  $\square$

**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 2.21.** *Let  $\phi$  be a homomorphism. Then,  $\phi$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $K_\phi = \{e\}$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\phi$  is an isomorphism, then it is injective and hence only  $e \in K_\phi$ . Suppose  $K_\phi = \{e\}$ , then we must show that  $\phi$  is a injective function. Suppose  $\phi(x) = \phi(y)$ , then by 2.20,  $yx^{-1} \in K_\phi$ . Thus,  $y = x$  and  $\phi$  is injective.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.22.** *If  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is a surjective homomorphism, then  $G/K_\phi \approx \bar{G}$*

*Proof.* Consider the following mapping,  $\psi : G/K_\phi \rightarrow \bar{G}$ . For any  $X \in G/K_\phi$ ,  $\psi(X) = \phi(g)$  for some  $g \in X$ . This is well-defined since if  $g, g' \in X$ , then  $g' = xg$  for some  $x \in K_\phi$  and hence

$$\phi(g') = \phi(g)\phi(x) = \phi(g)$$

Furthermore,  $\psi$  is injective. Suppose  $xK_\phi, yK_\phi \in G/K_\phi$ . Then,

$$\psi(xK_\phi) = \psi(yK_\phi) \implies \phi(x) = \phi(y) \implies xy^{-1} \in K_\phi$$

which implies that  $x \in K_\phi y$  and hence  $K_\phi y = K_\phi x$ . Moreover, this map is surjective. Let  $\bar{g} \in \bar{G}$ . Since  $\phi$  is surjective, then there exists an inverse image  $g$ . Therefore,  $\psi(gK_\phi) = \bar{g}$ . Finally, we must show that  $\psi$  is a homomorphism. Since  $K_\phi$  is normal in  $G$  we have

$$\psi(xK_\phi yK_\phi) = \psi(xyK_\phi) = \phi(xy) = \phi(x)\phi(y) = \psi(xK_\phi)\psi(yK_\phi)$$

which concludes the proof.  $\square$

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. i.e. it has no non-trivial normal subgroup.

**Theorem 2.23 (Cauchy's theorem for finite abelian groups).** *Suppose  $G$  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  $a^p = e$ .*

*Proof.* We induct over  $o(G)$ . For  $G$  with a single element, the theorem is true trivially. If  $G$  has non-trivial subgroup  $H$ , then  $G$  is cyclic and hence all its elements satisfy the condition. Suppose  $H$  is a non-trivial group of  $G$ . Since  $G$  is abelian, then  $H$  is normal in  $G$ . If  $p \mid o(H)$  then by induction we are done. Suppose otherwise, then  $p \mid o(G/H)$ . Consider a set  $S$  where each element correspond to a right coset of  $H$ . Clearly, there is a isomorphism between  $G/H$  and  $S$ . Since  $S$  is a subgroup of  $G$  and  $p \mid o(S)$  by induction hypothesis we are done. ■

**Theorem 2.24 (Sylow's theorem for finite abelian groups).** *Suppose the group  $G$  is a finite abelian group and  $p^\alpha \parallel o(G)$ , then  $G$  has a unique subgroup of order  $p^\alpha$ .*

*Proof.* We first prove the existence of such group. For  $\alpha = 0$ , the claim holds trivially as  $\{e\}$  is a subgroup of order 1. . Suppose  $H = \{x \in G \mid x^{p^n} = e\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . Since  $p \mid o(G)$  there is a non identity element  $g$  such that  $g^p = e$ . Hence  $g \in H$ . We show that  $q \nmid o(H)$  for any other prime  $q \neq p$ . Since otherwise there is a an element  $h \in H$  where  $h \neq e$  and  $h^q = e$  by 2.23. Since  $q$  and  $p^n$  are coprime, then  $h = e$  which is a contradiction. Lastly, we claim that  $p^\alpha \parallel o(H)$ . Suppose the contrary that  $p^\beta \parallel o(H)$  for some  $\beta < \alpha$ . Then, the quotient group of  $H$ ,  $p \mid o(G/H)$ . By 2.23, there is a right coset  $Hx \neq H$  such that  $(Hx)^p = Hx^p = H$ . This implies that  $x^p \in H$  which means  $(x^p)^{p^n} = e$  for some  $n$ .  $x^{p^{n+1}} = e \implies x \in H$ . which is a contradiction. Thus,  $o(H) = p^\alpha$ .

Finally, suppose  $K \neq H$  is another subgroup of  $G$  such that  $o(K) = p^\alpha$ . Then, note that

$$|HK| = \frac{o(H)o(K)}{o(H \cap K)} = \frac{p^{2\alpha}}{o(H \cap K)} \implies p^\gamma \parallel |HK|$$

However, this is a contradiction since  $HK$  is a subgroup in  $G$ . Therefore  $H$  is unique in  $G$ . ■

**Lemma 2.25.** *Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  is a surjective 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  $K_\phi$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\bar{e} \in \bar{H}$ , then  $K_\phi \subset H$ . Let  $x, y \in H$ .  $xy \in H$  since  $\phi(xy) = \phi(x)\phi(y) \in \bar{H}$  and  $x^{-1} \in H$  since  $\phi(x^{-1}) = (\phi(x))^{-1} \in \bar{H}$ . Thus,  $H$  is a subgroup in  $G$ . Assume that  $\bar{H}$  is normal and pick arbitray elements  $g \in G$  and  $h \in H$ .

$$\phi(ghg^{-1}) = \phi(g)\phi(h)(\phi(g))^{-1} \in \bar{H} \implies ghg^{-1} \in H$$

hence  $H$  is normal in  $G$ . Let  $\bar{H}, \bar{H}'$  be two subgroups of  $\bar{G}$  and  $H = \phi^{-1}(\bar{H}), H' = \phi^{-1}(\bar{H}')$ . Thus far we have proved that  $H, H' \supset K_\phi$  are subgroups of  $G$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  is surjective. If  $\bar{H} \neq \bar{H}'$ , then there is an element  $x \in \bar{H}$  but  $x \notin \bar{H}'$ . We should see that for any  $y = \phi^{-1}(x)$ ,  $y \in H$  but  $y \notin H'$ . Since  $\phi(y) = x \in \bar{H}$ , then  $y \in H$ . If  $y \in H'$ , then  $\phi(y) = x \in \bar{H}'$  which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $\phi^{-1}$  is a injective as well. So  $\phi^{-1}$  is a bijection between the subgroups of  $\bar{G}$  and subgroups of  $G$  that contain  $K_\phi$ . □

**Theorem 2.26.** *Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$  be a surjective homomorphism,  $\bar{N}$  a normal subgroup of  $\bar{G}$ , and  $N = \{x \in G \mid \phi(x) \in \bar{N}\}$ . Then,  $G/N \approx \bar{G}/\bar{N}$  and equivalently  $G/N \approx (G/K_\phi)/(N/K_\phi)$ .*

*Proof.* The last equivalency results immediately from 2.22. ■

## Exercises

1. Let  $U$  be a subset of a group  $G$ . The subgroup generated by  $U$ , denoted by  $\langle U \rangle$  is the smallest subgroup that contains  $U$ . Show that  $\langle U \rangle$  exists and give a construction for it.
2. Let  $U = \{xyx^{-1}y^{-1} \mid x, y \in G\}$ . In this case,  $\langle U \rangle$  is usually written as  $\hat{G}$  and is called the **commutator subgroup** of  $G$ .
  - (a) Prove  $\hat{G}$  is normal in  $G$ .
  - (b) Prove  $G/\hat{G}$  is abelian.
  - (c) If  $G/N$  is abelian, prove that  $N \supset \hat{G}$ .
  - (d) Prove that if  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  and  $H \supset \hat{G}$ , then  $H$  is normal in  $G$ .
  - (e) Let  $G = \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  and  $N = \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Show that  $N = \hat{G}$ .

## 2.6 Automorphism

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

**Lemma 2.27.** *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  $\text{Aut}(G)$ .*

*Proof.* The  $\text{Aut}(G)$  is a group under composition. Suppose  $\theta, \phi, \psi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ .

1. It is closed under composition. Since  $\phi, \theta$  are both bijective, then their composition is a bijection as well. Moreover, it is a homomorphism

$$\phi(\psi(xy)) = \phi(\psi(x)\psi(y)) = \phi(\psi(x))\phi(\psi(y))$$

therefore,  $\phi \circ \psi \in \text{Aut}(G)$ .

2. The identity is the identity transformation  $I$ .

$$I \circ \phi = \phi \circ I = \phi$$

3. the inverse of each automorphism is its inverse map. Suppose  $\phi^{-1}$  is inverse of  $\phi$

$$xy = \phi(\phi^{-1}(x))\phi(\phi^{-1}(y)) = \phi(\phi^{-1}(x)\phi^{-1}(y)) \implies \phi^{-1}(xy) = \phi^{-1}(x)\phi^{-1}(y)$$

4. composition is associative

$$\phi \circ (\psi \circ \theta) = (\phi \circ \psi) \circ \theta$$

for any maps  $\phi, \psi, \theta$  from  $G$  to  $G$ . □

**Example 2.1.**  $T_g : G \rightarrow G$  with  $gT_g = g^{-1}xg$ .  $T_g$  is an automorphism.  $T_g$  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 2.28.**  $G/Z \approx \text{Inn}(G)$ .

*Proof.* Since  $K_\psi = Z$ , this is an immediate result of 2.22, by considering  $\Psi : G \rightarrow \text{Inn}(G)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.29.** Let  $G$  be a group and  $\phi$  be an automorphism of  $G$ . If  $a \in G$  is of order  $o(a) > 0$ , then  $o(\phi(a)) = o(a)$ .

*Proof.* For any homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow \bar{G}$ ,  $o(\phi(a)) \mid o(a)$  since

$$\phi(a)^{o(a)} = \phi(a^{o(a)}) = \phi(e) = \bar{e}$$

since both  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  are homomorphism from  $G$  to  $\bar{G}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} o(\phi(a)) &\mid o(a) \\ o(\phi^{-1}(\phi(a))) &= o(a) \mid o(\phi(a)) \\ \implies o(\phi(a)) &= o(a) \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

## Exercises

1. A subgroup  $C$  of  $G$  is said to be a **characteristics subgroup** of  $G$  if  $CT \subset C$  for all automorphisms  $T$  of  $G$ . For any group  $G$ , prove that the commutator subgroup  $\hat{G}$  is a characteristic subgroup of  $G$ .
2. Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $T$  an automorphism of  $G$  with property that  $XT = X$  if and only if  $X = e$ . Suppose further that  $T^2 = I$ . Prove that  $G$  must be abelian.
3. Let  $G$  be a finite group,  $T$  an automorphism of  $G$  that sends more than three-quarters of the elements of  $G$  onto their inverses. Prove that  $XT = X^{-1}$  and that  $G$  is abelian.
4. Let  $G$  be a group of order  $2n$ . Suppose that half of the elements of  $G$  are of order 2, and the other half form a subgroup  $H$  of order  $n$ . Prove that  $H$  is of odd order and is an abelian subgroup of  $G$ .

## 2.7 Cayley's theorem

**Theorem 2.30 (Cayley).** Every group is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $A(S)$  for some set  $S$ .

*Proof.* Take  $S = G$  and let  $\tau_g : S \rightarrow S$  be given by  $\tau_g : x \mapsto xg$  for a  $g \in G$ . We claim that  $\theta : G \rightarrow A(S)$  given by  $\theta : g \mapsto \tau_g$  is an isomorphism. First, we must show that  $\theta$  is well defined. That is, for all  $g \in G$ ,  $\tau_g \in A(S)$ . Note that, if  $xg = yg$ , then  $x = y$ , hence  $\tau_g$  is injective. For every  $y \in G$ ,  $y = yg^{-1}\tau_g$ , hence  $\tau_g$  is surjective. Thus,  $\tau_g \in A(S)$ . Second, we show that  $\theta$  is a homomorphism. For all  $g, h, x \in G$ ,  $x(gh) = (xg)h$  therefore,  $\tau_{gh} = \tau_g\tau_h$ . Finally, to show that  $\theta$  is an isomorphism, we must show that it is injective. If for all  $x \in G$ ,  $x\tau_g = x\tau_h$ , then  $g = h$ . Which was what was wanted.  $\blacksquare$

The construction above, describes a group  $G$  as a subgroup of  $A(G)$  that for finite  $G$ , is of order  $o(G)!$ . Too BIG. We wish to make it smaller. Consider the following results.

**Theorem 2.31.** *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  $H$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\tau_g : S \rightarrow S$  be given by  $Hx\tau_g = Hxg$  and then let  $\theta : G \rightarrow A(S)$  be given by  $\theta : g \mapsto \tau_g$ . One can easily check that,  $\tau_g \in A(S)$  for all  $g$  and that  $\theta$  is a homomorphism. Suppose  $K$  is the kernel of  $\theta$ . Since  $K$  is a kernel of a homomorphism, it is normal. Moreover, if  $g \in K$ , then  $Hxg = Hx$  for all  $x \in G$ . In particular,  $Hg = H$  which implies that  $g \in H$ . As a result,  $K \subset H$ . Lastly, suppose  $K'$  is another normal subgroup of  $G$  which is contained in  $H$ . If  $g' \in K'$ , then for all  $x \in G$ ,  $xg'x^{-1} \in K' \subset H$ . That is, there exists a  $h_x \in H$  such that  $xg' = h_x x$  which implies  $Hxg' = Hx$  for all  $x$ . Therefore,  $g' \in K$  and  $K' \subset K$ . Which was what was wanted. ■

Given the above theorem, if  $H$  has no non-trivial normal subgroup of  $G$  inside it, then  $\theta$  is an isomorphism.

**Lemma 2.32.** *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.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $H$  contains no non-trivial normal subgroup of  $G$ . Then, by preceding theorem,  $\theta$  is an isomorphism and  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $A(S)$ , where  $A(S) = i(H)!$ . By Lagrange, theorem,  $o(G) \mid i(H)!$  which was what was wanted. ■

## Exercises

1. Let  $o(G) = pq$ ,  $p > q$  are primes, prove
  - (a)  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $p$  and a subgroup of order  $q$ .
  - (b) If  $q \nmid p - 1$ , then  $G$  is cyclic.
  - (c) Given two primes,  $p$  and  $q$  with  $q \mid p - 1$ , there exists a non-abelian group of order  $pq$ .
  - (d) Any two non-abelian groups of order  $pq$  are isomorphic.

## 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  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} b \iff a = b\theta^i$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . This defines an equivalence relation.



1.  $a \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} a$  for all  $a$ , since  $a = a\theta^0$ .
2.  $a \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} b$  implies  $b \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} a$ , since  $a = b\theta^i \implies b = a\theta^{-i}$ .
3.  $a \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} b$  and  $b \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} c$  implies  $a \stackrel{\theta}{\equiv} c$ , since  $a = b\theta^i$  and  $b = c\theta^j$  implies  $a = c\theta^{i+j}$ .

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 2.33.** *Every permutation is a product of its cycles.*

*Proof.* Note that the cycles of a permutation are disjoint, and each is a permutation, hence their product is a permutation. Suppose  $\psi$  is the permutation of the product of cycles of  $\theta$ .  $\psi$  is well-defined since the product of disjoint permutation is commutative. Furthermore, for each  $s \in S$ ,  $s\psi = \theta s$  thus,  $\theta = \psi$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.34.** *Every cycle can be written as a product of 2-cycle or **transpositions**.*

*Proof.* Every  $m$ -cycle can be written as a product of 2-cycles.

$$(1 \ 2 \ \dots \ m) = (1 \ 2)(2 \ 3) \dots (m-1 \ m) \quad \square$$

**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,

The proof of well-definition of even permutation involves the polynomial  $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j)$$

Define the action of  $\theta \in A(S_n)$  on the polynomial  $p$

$$\theta \cdot p = \prod_{i < j} (x_{\theta(i)} - x_{\theta(j)})$$

It can be easily seen that  $\theta \cdot p = \pm p$ . In fact, if  $\theta$  is a transposition, then  $\theta \cdot p = -p$ . Since this is an action on  $p$ , if  $\theta$  is the product of  $m$  transposition,  $\theta \cdot p = (-1)^m p$ . Therefore, even permutations are well-defined. That is, no permutation can be written as a product of even number of transpositions and odd number of transpositions simultaneously.

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

*Proof.* A way to prove this lemma, is to show that every odd permutation is in one coset of  $A_n$ .

Another way, is to show that  $\Psi : S_n \rightarrow W$  given by

$$\theta\Psi = \begin{cases} 1 & \theta \text{ is even} \\ -1 & \theta \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

is an onto homomorphism.  $W$  is the group of  $\{1, -1\}$  under multiplication. Then  $A_n$  is the kernel of  $\Psi$ . Since  $S_n/A_n \approx W$ , then

$$\frac{o(S_n)}{o(A_n)} = o(W) = 2$$

Which was what was wanted. □

## Exercises

1. (a) What is the order of an  $n$ -cycle.  
 (b) What is the order of the product of disjoint cycles of length  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k$ .  
 (c) How do you find the order of a given permutation?
2. Prove that  $A_5$  has no non-trivial normal subgroups.
3. If  $n \geq 5$  prove that  $A_n$  is the only non-trivial normal subgroup in  $S_n$ .

## 2.9 Another counting principle

**Definition:** If  $a, b \in G$ , then  $b$  is said to be a **conjugate** of  $a$  in  $G$ , denoted by  $a \sim b$ , if there exists an element  $c \in G$  such that  $b = c^{-1}ac$

**Lemma 2.36.** *Conjugacy is an equivalence relation on  $G$ .*

*Proof.* 1.  $a \sim a$  for all  $a \in G$ ,  $a = e^{-1}ae$ .

2.  $a \sim b \implies b \sim a$  for all  $a, b \in G$ , since  $a = c^{-1}bc$  implies that  $b = cac^{-1}$ .

3.  $a \sim b, b \sim c \implies a \sim c$  for all  $a, b, c \in G$ , since  $a = d^{-1}bd = d^{-1}e^{-1}ced = (ed)^{-1}c(ed)$ .  
□

For  $a \in G$  let  $C(a) = \{x \in G \mid x \sim a\}$ .  $C(a)$  is called the **conjugate class** of  $a$  in  $G$ . It consists all elements in form of  $y^{-1}ay$  for  $y \in G$ . Suppose  $G$  is a finite group and  $A$  is a set of representative of conjugacy classes. Then,

$$o(G) = \sum_{a \in A} |C(a)|$$

**Definition:** Suppose  $a \in G$ . The **normalizer** of  $a$  in  $G$ , denoted by  $N(a)$ , is the set of all elements that commute with  $a$ ,  $N(a) = \{x \in G \mid ax = xa\}$ .

**Lemma 2.37.**  $N(a)$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $x, y \in N(a)$ , then  $a(xy) = (ax)y = (xa)y = x(ay) = x(ya) = (xy)a$ . And  $x^{-1}a = ax^{-1}$  holds. Therefore,  $N(a)$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . □

**Theorem 2.38.** *If  $G$  is a finite group, then  $|C(a)| = i_G(N(a))$ . i.e. the number of elements conjugate to  $a$  in  $G$  is the index of normalized of  $a$  in  $G$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be the set of right cosets of  $N(a)$  in  $G$ . Consider  $\varphi : S \rightarrow C(a)$  given by  $\varphi : N(a)g \mapsto g^{-1}ag$ . This function is well-defined since if  $N(a)g = N(a)h$ , then  $g = nh$  for some  $n \in N(a)$ . Then,  $g^{-1}ag = h^{-1}n^{-1}anh = h^{-1}ah$ . Similarly, it is injective. If  $N(a)g\varphi = N(a)h\varphi$ , then  $g^{-1}ag = h^{-1}ah \implies a = (gh^{-1})a(hg^{-1}) \implies hg^{-1} \in N(a)$  hence  $N(a)g = N(a)h$ .  $\varphi$  is clearly surjective. Suppose  $x \in C(a)$ , then there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $x = g^{-1}ag$ . Then,  $N(a)g\varphi = g^{-1}ag = x$ . Therefore,  $\varphi$  is a bijection and  $|C(a)| = i_G(N(a))$ . ■

**Corollary 2.39.** *The class equation of  $G$*

$$o(G) = \sum_{a \in A} \frac{o(G)}{o(N(a))}$$

Recall that the center  $Z(G)$  of a group  $G$  is the set of all  $a \in G$  such that  $ax = xa$  for all  $x \in G$ .

**Lemma 2.40.**  *$a \in Z(G)$  if and only if  $N(a) = G$ . If  $G$  is finite,  $a \in Z(G)$  if and only if  $o(N(a)) = o(G)$ .*

*Proof.* It can be readily proven by applying the definitions. □

### 2.9.1 Applications of 2.38

**Theorem 2.41.** *If  $o(G) = p^n$  where  $p$  is a prime number, then  $Z(G) \neq \{e\}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $z = o(Z(G))$ . For each  $a \in Z(G)$ ,  $|C(a)| = 1$ . For each  $b \notin Z(G)$ ,  $N(a) \neq G$ , hence  $o(N(a)) = p^k$  for some  $0 < k < n$ . Therefore,  $|C(a)| = p^{n-k}$  with  $n - k \geq 1$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} p^n &= \sum_{a \in A} |C(a)| \\ &= \sum_{A \cap Z(G)} |C(a)| + \sum_{A \cap (Z(G))^c} |C(a)| \\ &= z + \sum_{A \cap (Z(G))^c} |C(a)| \end{aligned}$$

We have shown that, for  $a \notin Z(G)$ , then  $p \mid |C(a)|$ , thus  $p \mid z$ . Since  $e \in Z(G)$ , then  $Z(G)$  contains at least  $p$  elements. ■

**Corollary 2.42.** *If  $o(G) = p^2$  where  $p$  is a prime number, then  $G$  is abelian.*

*Proof.* Based on the proof last theorem,  $o(Z(G)) = p, p^2$ . Suppose  $o(Z(G)) = p$  and  $a \notin Z(G)$ . Then,  $Z(G) \subsetneq N(a)$ . By Lagrange's theorem,  $o(N(a)) \mid o(G)$ , thus  $o(N(a)) = p^2$  which means  $a \in Z(G)$ , a contradiction. Therefore,  $o(Z(G)) = p^2$  and  $G$  is abelian. ■

**Theorem 2.43 (Cauchy).** *If  $p$  is a prime number and  $p \mid o(G)$ , then  $G$  has an element of order  $p$ .*

*Proof.* If  $o(G) = p$ , then  $G$  is cyclic and the theorem holds. Suppose, the statement is true for all groups with  $o(G) = pk$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$ , we will show that it is also true for  $o(G) = np$ . That is, we will prove the theorem by induction. If  $G$  has a non-trivial subset  $H$  where  $p \mid o(H)$ , then we would be done. Suppose, that  $p$  divides the order of no non-trivial

subgroup of  $H$ . Consider the normalizer subgroups,  $N(a)$ . If a normalizer subgroup is trivial, then  $N(a) = G$  and hence  $a \in Z(G)$ . If it is not trivial, then its index divides  $p$ .

$$p^n = z + \sum_{A \cap (Z(G))^c} |C(a)| \implies p \mid z$$

That is  $p \mid o(Z(G))$ . Therefore,  $Z(G) = G$  which means  $G$  is abelian. By Cauchy's theorem for abelian groups, there exists  $a \neq e$  such that  $a^p = e$ . ■

Recall that every permutation in  $S_n$  can be decomposed into disjoint cycles. We shall say a permutation  $\sigma \in S_n$  has the **cycle decomposition**  $\{n_1, \dots, n_r\}$  if it can be written as product of disjoint cycles of length  $n_1, \dots, n_r$  with  $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \dots \leq n_r$ .

**Lemma 2.44.** *Two permutations in  $S_n$  are conjugate if and only if they have the same cycle decomposition.*

*Proof.* Conjugation in  $S_n$  leaves the cyclic decomposition unchanged. Also, for any two permutations with the same cyclic decomposition, we can find a  $\theta \in S_n$  such that  $\sigma_1 = \theta^{-1}\sigma_2\theta$ . □

**Corollary 2.45.** *The number of conjugate classes in  $S_n$  is  $p(n)$ , the number of partitions of  $n$ .*

*Proof.* Every conjugate class corresponds to a partition of  $n$ . □

## Exercises

1.

## 2.10 Sylow's theorem

**Theorem 2.46 (Sylow).** *If  $p$  is a prime number and  $p^\alpha \mid o(G)$ , then  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $p^\alpha$ .*

We give three proofs for this theorem.

*Proof.* Let  $o(G) = p^\alpha m$  where  $p^r \parallel m$  for some  $r \geq 0$ . Consider  $\mathcal{M}$ , the set of all  $p^\alpha$ -element subsets of  $G$ . Clearly,  $|\mathcal{M}| = \binom{p^\alpha m}{p^\alpha}$ . Let  $e_p(n)$  be  $p^{e_p(n)} \parallel n$ . We claim that  $p^r \parallel |\mathcal{M}|$ . Note that

$$e_p(|\mathcal{M}|) = e_p((p^\alpha m)!) - e_p((p^\alpha)!) - e_p((p^\alpha(m-1))!)$$

For any  $m$  and  $\alpha$

$$e_p((p^\alpha m)!) = m e_p((p^\alpha)!) + e_p(m!)$$

therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} e_p(|\mathcal{M}|) &= e_p((p^\alpha m)!) - e_p((p^\alpha)!) - e_p((p^\alpha(m-1))!) \\ &= e_p(m!) - e_p((m-1)!) \\ &= e_p\left(\frac{m!}{(m-1)!}\right) \\ &= e_p(m) \end{aligned}$$

which proves the claim. Define the equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  as following.  $M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{M}$  are equivalent if there exists a  $g \in G$  such that  $M_1 = M_2g$ . There is at least one equivalence class that the number of elements in that class does not divide  $p^{r+1}$ . As otherwise,  $p^{r+1} \mid |\mathcal{M}|$  which is a contradiction. Suppose  $\{M_1, \dots, M_n\}$  where  $p^{r+1} \nmid n$  is that equivalence class. Let  $H = \{g \in G \mid M_1g = M_1\}$ . It can be easily shown that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . We will show that  $i_G(H) = n$ . Let  $\phi : Hg \mapsto M_1g$

- $\phi$  is well-defined. Let  $Hg_1 = Hg_2$ , then  $g_2 = hg_1$  where  $h \in H$ . Hence

$$M_1g_2 = M_1hg_1 = M_1g_1$$

- $\phi$  is injective. Suppose  $M_1g_1 = M_1g_2$ , then  $M_1g_1g_2^{-1} = M_1$  thus  $g_1g_2^{-1} \in H \implies Hg_1 = Hg_2$ .
- $\phi$  is clearly surjective.

Note that  $\{M_1g \mid g \in G\} = \{M_1, \dots, M_n\}$  by definition. Then,  $i_G(H) = n$ . which implies  $p^\alpha \mid o(H)$ . For each  $m_1 \in M_1$ ,  $m_1H_1 \subset M_1$ , therefore,  $H$  has at most  $p^\alpha$  distinct elements. Thus  $o(H) = p^\alpha$ . ■

**Corollary 2.47.** *If  $p^m \mid o(G)$ ,  $p^{m+1} \nmid o(G)$ , then  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $p^m$ .*

The second proof is by induction.

*Proof.* For  $o(G) = 2$ , the only prime divisor is 2 and  $G$  itself is a subgroup of  $G$  with order 2. Suppose for all groups with order less than  $o(G)$ , the theorem holds and suppose  $p^\alpha \mid o(G)$ . If  $G$  has a non-trivial subgroup  $H$  where  $p^\alpha \mid o(H)$ , then by induction hypothesis there exists a subgroup  $T$  of  $H$  with  $p^\alpha$  elements. We are done, since  $T$  is a subgroup of  $G$  as well. Suppose,  $G$  does not have a non-trivial subgroup whose order is divisible by  $p^\alpha$ . Consider the normalizer groups  $N(a)$ . If  $N(a) = G$ , then  $a \in Z(G)$ . Otherwise,  $p^\alpha \nmid o(N(a))$ , hence  $p \mid i_G(N(a))$ . By class equation, 2.39,

$$o(G) = o(Z(G)) + \sum_{A \cap (Z(G))^c} i_G(N(a))$$

which implies that  $p \mid o(Z(G))$ . By Cauchy's theorem, there exists an element  $b \in Z(G)$  with order  $p$ . Let  $B = \langle b \rangle$ . Since  $B \subset Z(G)$  it commutes with all elements of  $G$  and hence it is a normal subgroup. Let  $\bar{G} = G/B$ , then  $o(\bar{G}) = o(G)/o(B) = o(G)/p$ . Therefore,  $p^{\alpha-1} \mid o(\bar{G})$  and by the induction hypothesis, there exists a subgroup  $\bar{P}$  with order of  $p^\alpha$ . Let  $P = \{x \in G \mid Bx \in \bar{P}\}$ , then  $P/B$  is isomorphic to  $\bar{P}$  and hence  $o(P) = o(\bar{P})o(B) = p^\alpha$ . Which was what was wanted. ■

A subgroup of  $G$  of order  $p^m$  where  $p^m \parallel o(G)$  is called a  **$p$ -Sylow group**.

For the third proof of Sylow's theorem, consider the following lemmas.

**Lemma 2.48.**  *$S_{p^k}$  has a  $p$ -Sylow group.*

*Proof.* For  $k = 1$ , the order of  $p$ -Sylow group is  $p$ . Therefore,  $H = \langle (1 \ 2 \ \dots \ p) \rangle$  is a  $p$ -Sylow group. Suppose that  $S_{p^{k-1}}$  has a  $p$ -Sylow group. Consider the permutation  $\sigma \in S_{p^k}$  defined as following

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & p^{k-1} + 1 & \dots & (p-1)p^{k-1} + 1 & 2 & p^{k-1} + 2 & \dots & (p-1)p^{k-1} + 2 \\ & & & & \dots & (p^{k-1} & 2p^{k-1} & \dots & p^k) \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $A_n = \{\tau \in S_{p^k} \mid i\tau = i \text{ for } i \leq (n-1)p^{k-1} \text{ and } i > np^{k-1}\}$  for  $n = 1, \dots, p$  the set of all permutations that only change the elements  $(n-1)p^{k-1} + 1, \dots, np^{k-1}$ . It can be easily shown that  $A_n$  is a subgroup of  $S_{p^k}$ . Furthermore,  $A_n = \sigma^{-n} A_1 \sigma^n$  and  $o(A_1) = (p^{k-1})!$ , in fact  $A_1 \approx S_{p^{k-1}}$ . Therefore,  $A_n$  has a  $p$ -Sylow group  $P_n$ , where  $P_n = \sigma^{-n} P_1 \sigma^n$ . Let  $T = P_1 P_2 \dots P_n$ . Since  $P_i \subset A_i$  and  $A_i$  are disjoint, then  $P_i$  are disjoint and hence they commute. Thus  $T$  is a subgroup of  $S_{p^k}$  with order  $o(P_1)^p = p^{pe_p(p^{k-1})}$ . Which means  $T$  is not a  $p$ -Sylow group. Note that  $\sigma \notin T$  and  $P_i \sigma^j = \sigma^j P_{i+j}$ . Consider  $P = \{\sigma^j t \mid t \in T, 0 \leq j < p\}$ , we claim that  $P$  is a subgroup of  $S_{p^k}$ .

1. Let  $t = q_1 \dots q_p$  where  $q_i \in P_i$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^j t \sigma^k t' &= \sigma^j q_1 \dots q_{p-1} q_p \sigma^k t' \\ &= \sigma^j q_1 \dots q_{p-1} \sigma^k q'_p t' \\ &= \sigma^{j+k} q'_1 \dots q'_{p-1} q'_p t' \end{aligned}$$

where  $q'_i \in P_{i+j}$ . Since  $P_i$  are commutative, then  $q'_1 \dots q'_p t' \in T$ .

2. The inverse of  $\sigma^j t$  can be easily found.

The order of  $P$  is  $p o(T) = p^{pe_p(p^{k-1})+1} = p^{e_p(p^k)}$ . Which means,  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $S_{p^k}$ . ■

**Definition:** Let  $G$  be a group,  $A, B$  subgroups of  $G$ . If  $x, y \in G$  define  $x \sim_B^A y$  if  $y = axb$  for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ .

**Lemma 2.49.** *The relation  $\sim_B^A$  defines an equivalence relation on  $G$ . The equivalence class of  $x \in G$  is the set  $AxB = \{axb \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$ .*

*Proof.*

1. For all  $x \in G$ ,  $x = exe$  and hence  $x \sim_B^A x$ .
2. For all  $x, y \in G$ , if  $x \sim_B^A y$ , then  $y = axb$  for some  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , hence  $x = a^{-1}yb^{-1}$ , therefore,  $y \sim_B^A x$ .
3. For all  $x, y, z \in G$ , if  $x \sim_B^A y$  and  $y \sim_B^A z$ , then  $y = a_1xb_1$  and  $z = a_2yb_2$  for some  $a_1, a_2 \in A$  and  $b_1, b_2 \in B$ , hence  $z = a_2a_1xb_1b_2$ , therefore,  $x \sim_B^A z$ . □

**Lemma 2.50.** *If  $A, B$  are finite subgroups of  $G$  then*

$$|AxB| = \frac{o(A)o(B)}{o(A \cap xBx^{-1})}$$

*Proof.* Note that  $|AxB| = |AxBx^{-1}|$

$$|AxB| = |AxBx^{-1}| = \frac{o(A)o(xBx^{-1})}{o(A \cap xBx^{-1})} = \frac{o(A)o(B)}{o(A \cap xBx^{-1})}$$

which proves the lemma. □

**Lemma 2.51.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group and suppose  $G$  is a subgroup of the finite group  $M$ . Suppose further that  $M$  has a  $p$ -Sylow group subgroup  $Q$ . Then  $G$  has a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup  $P$ . In fact,  $P = G \cap xQx^{-1}$  for some  $x \in M$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p^m \parallel o(M)$  and  $p^n \parallel o(G)$  with  $n \leq m$ . Therefore,  $o(Q) = p^m$  and since  $G \cap xQx^{-1} \stackrel{\text{gp}}{\subset} xQx^{-1}$  for all  $x \in M$ , then  $o(G \cap xQx^{-1}) = p^{m_x}$  for some  $m_x \leq n$ . Note that by the above's lemma

$$|GxQ| = \frac{o(G)o(Q)}{o(G \cap xQx^{-1})} = \frac{p^n \alpha p^m}{p^{m_x}} = p^{n+m-m_x} \alpha$$

We claim that there exists  $x \in M$  such that  $m_x = n$ . As otherwise,  $m_x$  would be strictly smaller than  $n$ , hence  $n - m_x \geq 1$ . Thus,

$$o(M) = \sum_{x \in A} |GxQ|$$

would divide  $p^{m+1}$  which is a contradiction. Therefore, let  $x$  be such that  $m_x = n$  and  $P = G \cap xQx^{-1}$

$$o(P) = \frac{o(G)o(Q)}{|G \cap xQx^{-1}|} = \frac{p^n \alpha p^m}{p^m \alpha} = p^n$$

which means that  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow group of  $G$ . □

We now present the third proof.

*Proof.* Let  $o(G) = n$ . By the Cayley's theorem, we can isomorphically embed  $G$  in  $S_n$ . Let  $p^k > n$ . Then,  $S_n$  is a subgroup of  $S_{p^k}$  and therefore  $G$  is a subgroup of  $S_{p^k}$ . By the last lemma,  $G$  has a  $p$ -Sylow group. ■

**Theorem 2.52 (Second part of Sylow's theorem).** *If  $G$  is a finite group,  $p$  is a prime and  $p^n \parallel o(G)$ , then any two subgroups of  $G$  of order  $p^n$  are conjugate.*

*Proof.* Let  $A$  and  $B$  be two  $p$ -Sylow groups of  $G$  with order  $p^n$ . Consider the double coset decomposition of  $G$  with respect to  $A$  and  $B$ .

$$|AxB| = \frac{o(A)o(B)}{o(A \cap xBx^{-1})} = p^{2n-m_x}$$

where  $m_x = o(A \cap xBx^{-1})$ . If  $A \neq xBx^{-1}$  for any  $x \in G$ , then  $m_x < n$  for all  $x \in G$ . Therefore,  $2n - m_x \geq n + 1$  for all  $x \in G$ . Particularly, if  $A$  is the set of representatives of equivalence classes of  $\sim_B^A$ ,

$$o(G) = \sum_{x \in A} |AxB|$$

which means  $p^{n+1} \mid o(G)$  which is a contradiction. Therefore, there exists a  $x \in G$  such that  $A = xBx^{-1}$ . ■

**Definition:** Suppose  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . The **normalizer** of  $H$  is the subgroup  $N(H) = \{x \in G \mid x^{-1}Hx = H\}$ .

**Lemma 2.53.** *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Then, the number of distinct conjugates of  $H$  is  $i_G(N(H))$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be the set of right cosets of  $N(H)$  in  $G$  and  $T$  be the set of conjugates of  $H$ . Consider  $\varphi : S \rightarrow T$  given by  $\varphi : N(H)g \mapsto g^{-1}Hg$ . This function is well-defined since if  $N(H)g = N(H)h$ , then  $g = nh$  for some  $n \in N(H)$ . Then,  $g^{-1}Hg = h^{-1}n^{-1}Hnh = h^{-1}Hh$ . Similarly, it is injective. If  $N(H)g\varphi = N(H)h\varphi$ , then  $g^{-1}Hg = h^{-1}Hh \implies H = (gh^{-1})H(hg^{-1}) \implies hg^{-1} \in N(H)$  hence  $N(H)g = N(H)h$ .  $\varphi$  is clearly surjective. Suppose  $x^{-1}Hx \in T$  then,  $N(H)x\varphi = x^{-1}Hx$ . Therefore,  $\varphi$  is a bijection and  $|T| = |S| = i_G(N(H))$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.54.** *The number of  $p$ -Sylow subgroups in  $G$  equals  $o(G)/o(N(P))$  where  $P$  is any  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ . In particular, this number is a divisor of  $o(G)$ .*

*Proof.*  $p$ -Sylow subgroups are conjugates.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.55 (Second part of Sylow's theorem).** *The number of  $p$ -Sylow subgroups in  $G$ , is of the form  $1 + kp$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p^n \parallel G$  and consider the double coset decomposition of  $G$  with respect to  $P$  and  $P$ .

$$|PxP| = \frac{(o(P))^2}{o(P \cap xPx^{-1})}$$

if  $x \in N(P)$ , then  $P \cap xPx^{-1} = P$  and hence  $o(P \cap xPx^{-1}) = p^n$ . Otherwise,  $P \cap xPx^{-1} \subsetneq P$  and hence  $o(P \cap xPx^{-1}) = p^{m_x}$  for some  $m_x < n$ . Therefore,

$$o(G) = \sum_{x \in N(P)} |PxP| + \sum_{x \notin N(P)} |PxP|$$

If  $x \in N(P)$ , then  $xPx^{-1} = P \implies PxP = Px$ . Hence, the first summation is

$$\sum_{x \in N(P)} |Px| = o(P)i_{N(P)}(P) = o(N(P))$$

and the second summation is divisible by  $p^{n+1}$  hence there exists an integer  $u$  such that

$$\sum_{x \notin N(P)} |PxP| = p^{n+1}u$$

therefore

$$o(G) = o(N(P)) + p^{n+1}u \implies i_G(N(P)) = 1 + \frac{p^{n+1}u}{o(N(P))}$$

Moreover,  $p^{n+1}$  does not divide  $G$  and hence it does not divide  $N(P)$ . Thus,  $p^{n+1}u/o(N(P))$  is an integer divisible by  $p$ .  $\blacksquare$

## Exercises

1. Let  $N$  be a subgroup of finite group  $G$  such that  $i_G(N)$  is the smallest prime factor of  $o(G)$ . Prove  $N$  is normal.
- 2.



## 2.11 Direct product

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be any two groups and  $G = A \times B$ . Define the operation  $\circ_G$  as  $(a_1, b_1) \circ_G (a_2, b_2) = (a_1 \circ_A a_2, b_1 \circ_B b_2)$ . It can be readily verified that  $G$  is group under the operation  $\circ_G$ . We call  $(G, \circ_G)$  the **external direct product** of  $A$  and  $B$ .

Now suppose  $G = A \times B$  and consider  $\bar{A} = \{(a, f) \in G \mid a \in A\}$  where  $f$  is the unit element of  $B$ . Then,  $\bar{A}$  is a normal subgroup in  $G$  and is isomorphic to  $A$ . We claim that  $G = \bar{A}\bar{B}$  and every  $g \in G$  has a unique decomposition in the form of  $g = \bar{a}\bar{b}$  where  $\bar{a} \in \bar{A}$  and  $\bar{b} \in \bar{B}$ . Thus we have realized  $G$  as an **internal product**  $\bar{A}\bar{B}$  of two normal subgroups.

**Definition:** Let  $G$  be a group and  $N_1, \dots, N_n$  normal subgroups of  $G$  such that

1.  $G = N_1 \dots N_n$ .
2. Any  $g \in G$  can be uniquely represented as  $g = n_1 n_2 \dots n_n$  where  $n_i \in N_i$ .

We then say that  $G$  is the **internal direct product** of  $N_1, \dots, N_n$ .

**Lemma 2.56.** *Suppose that  $G$  is the internal product of  $N_1, \dots, N_n$ . Then for  $i \neq j$ ,  $N_i \cap N_j = \{e\}$  and if  $a \in N_i$  and  $b \in N_j$  then  $ab = ba$ .*

**Theorem 2.57.** *Suppose that  $G$  is the internal product of  $N_1, \dots, N_n$  and let  $T = N_1 \times \dots \times N_n$ . Then  $G$  and  $T$  are isomorphic.*

## 2.12 Finite abelian groups

**Theorem 2.58 (The fundamental theorem on finite abelian groups).** *Every finite abelian group is the direct product of cyclic groups.*

**Definition:** If  $G$  is an abelian group of order  $p^n$ ,  $p$  a prime, and  $G = A_1 \times \dots \times A_k$  where  $A_i$  is cyclic of order  $p^{n_i}$  with  $n_1 \geq n_2 \geq \dots \geq n_k > 0$ , then the integers  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k$  are called the **invariants** of  $G$ .

**Definition:** If  $G$  is an abelian group and  $s$  is any integer, then  $G(s) = \{x \in G \mid x^s = e\}$ .

**Lemma 2.59.** *If  $G$  and  $G'$  are isomorphic abelian groups, then for every integer  $s$ ,  $G(s)$  and  $G'(s)$  are isomorphic.*



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# Chapter 3

## Ring Theory

**Definition:** A non-empty set  $R$  is an **associative ring** if in  $R$  there are defined two operations  $(+, \cdot)$  such that for all  $a, b, c \in R$

1.  $R$  is closed under  $+$ .
2.  $+$  is commutative.
3.  $+$  is associative.
4. There exists an element  $0 \in R$ , which is the identity element of  $+$ .
5. For each  $a$ , there exists  $b$  such that  $a + b = b + a = 0$ .
6.  $R$  is closed under  $\cdot$ .
7.  $\cdot$  is associative.
8.  $\cdot$  is distributive over  $+$ . That is,  $a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$  and  $(a + b) \cdot c = a \cdot c + b \cdot c$ .

If there is an element  $1 \in R$  such that  $a \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot a = a$  for all  $a \in R$ ,  $R$  is said to be a **ring with unity**. If  $\cdot$  is commutative,  $R$  is said to be a **commutative ring**. If the non-zero elements of  $R$  form an abelian group under  $\cdot$ ,  $R$  is said to be a **field**.

**Example 3.1.** Consider the **real quaternions**,  $Q = \{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 i + \alpha_2 j + \alpha_3 k \mid \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \in \mathbb{R}\}$  with multiplication rules;  $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = 1$ ,  $ij = -ji = k$ ,  $jk = -kj = i$ ,  $ki = -ik = j$ . Then,  $Q$  is a non-commutative ring and its non-zero elements form a non-commutative group under multiplication.

### 3.1 Some special classed of ring

**Definition:** If  $R$  is a commutative ring, then a non-zero element  $a \in R$  is a **zero-divisor** if there exists another non-zero element  $b$  such that  $ab = 0$ .

**Definition:** A commutative ring is an **integral domain** if it has no zero-divisors.

**Definition:** A ring in which all non-zero elements form a group under multiplication is called a **division ring** or **skew-field**.

**Definition:** A field is a commutative division ring.

**Lemma 3.1.** *for all  $a, b, c \in R$*

1.  $a \cdot 0 = 0 \cdot a = 0$ .
2.  $a(-b) = (-a)b = -ab$ .
3.  $(-a)(-b) = ab$ .

*If  $1 \in R$*

1.  $(-1)a = -a$ .
2.  $(-1)(-1) = 1$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *A finite integral domain is a field.*

**Corollary 3.3.** *If  $p$  is a prime,  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is a field.*

**Definition:** An integral domain  $D$  is said to be of characteristic 0 if the relation  $ma = 0$  where  $a \neq 0$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  holds only if  $m = 0$ .  $D$  is of finite characteristic if there exists a positive integer  $m$  such that for all  $a \in D$ ,  $ma = 0$ . The characteristic of  $D$  is the smallest such integer. We say that a ring  $R$  has  $n$ -**torsion** if there exists  $a \neq 0$  in  $R$  such that  $na = 0$  and  $ma \neq 0$  for  $0 < m < n$ .

## 3.2 Homomorphisms

**Definition:** A mapping  $\phi$  from the ring  $R$  into the ring  $R'$  is a homomorphism if

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

and

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

for all  $a, b \in R$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** *If  $\phi : R \rightarrow R'$  is a homomorphism*

1.  $\phi(0) = 0$ .
2.  $\phi(-a) = -\phi(a)$ .

**Definition:** Suppose  $\phi : R \rightarrow R'$  is a homomorphism. The kernel  $I(\phi) = \{a \in R \mid \phi(a) = 0\}$ .

**Lemma 3.5.** *If  $\phi : R \rightarrow R'$  is a homomorphism*

1.  $I(\phi)$  is a subgroup of  $R$  under addition.
2. If  $a \in I(\phi)$  and  $r \in R$ , then  $ra, ar \in I(\phi)$ .

**Definition:** A homomorphism  $R$  into  $R'$  is an isomorphism if it is one-to-one.  $R$  and  $R'$  are isomorphic if there is an onto isomorphism between them.

**Lemma 3.6.** *The homomorphism  $\phi : R \rightarrow R'$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $I(\phi) = \{0\}$ .*

### 3.3 Ideals and quotient ring

**Definition:** A non-empty subset  $U$  of  $R$  is a **two-sided ideal** of  $R$  if

1.  $U$  is a subgroup of  $R$  under addition.
2. For all  $u \in U$  and  $r \in R$ ,  $ur, ru \in U$ .

$R/U$  is the set of distinct cosets of  $U$  in  $R$  as a group under addition.  $R/U$  is a ring with  $(a + U)(b + U) = ab + U$ .

If  $R$  is commutative or it has unit element, then  $R/U$  is commutative or has unit element. But the converse is not necessarily true. — give an example.

**Lemma 3.7.** *If  $U$  is an ideal of the ring  $R$ . then  $R/U$  is a ring and is a homomorphic image of  $R$ .*

**Theorem 3.8.** *Suppose  $\phi : R \rightarrow R'$  is a homomorphism and let  $U = I(\phi)$ . Then,  $R' \approx R/U$ . Moreover, there is a one-to-one correspondence between the set of ideals of  $R'$  and the set of ideals of  $R$  that contain  $U$ . This correspondence can be achieved by associating with an ideal  $W'$  of  $R'$ , the ideal  $W$  in  $R$  defined by  $W = \{x \in R \mid \phi(x) \in W'\}$ , then  $W' \approx R/W$ .*

### 3.4 More ideals and quotient rings

**Lemma 3.9.** *Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with unit element whose only ideals are  $(0)$  and  $R$ . Then,  $R$  is a field.*

**Definition:** An ideal  $M \neq R$  is said to be **maximal ideal** of  $R$  whenever  $U$  is an ideal of  $R$  such that  $M \subset U \subset R$ , then either  $UR$  or  $U = M$ .

If a ring has unit element, then using axiom of choice it can be shown that there is a maximal ideal.

**Theorem 3.10.** *If  $R$  is a commutative ring with unit element and  $M$  is an ideal of  $R$ , then  $M$  is maximal ideal if and only if  $R/M$  is a field.*

### 3.5 The field of quotients of integral domain

**Definition:** A ring  $R$  can be **imbedded** in ring  $R'$  if there is an isomorphism of  $R$  into  $R'$ . If  $R$  and  $R'$  have unit elements, this isomorphism should take 1 onto 1'.  $R'$  will be called an **over ring or extension** of  $R$ .

**Theorem 3.11.** *Every integral domain can be imbedded in a field.*

*Proof.* Take a look at quotients  $\frac{a}{b}$ .  $M = \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in D, b \neq 0\}$ .  $(a, b) \sim (c, d)$  if  $ad = bc$ .  $F$  be the set of equivalence classes.  $F$  is a field and  $D$  can be imbedded in  $F$ . ■

$F$  is called the **field of quotients** of  $D$ .

### 3.6 Euclidean ring

**Definition:** An integral domain  $R$  is an **Euclidean ring** if for every  $a \neq 0$  in  $R$  there exists a non-negative integer  $d(a)$  such that

1. For all non-zero  $a, b \in R$ ,  $d(a) \leq d(ab)$ .
2. For all non-zero  $a, b \in R$ , there exists  $t, r \in R$  such that  $a = tb + r$  where either  $r = 0$  or  $d(r) < d(b)$ .

$$\langle a \rangle = \{xa \mid x \in R\}.$$

**Theorem 3.12.** *Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring and let  $A$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Then, there exists  $a_0 \in A$  such that  $A$  consists exactly of  $a_0x$  as  $x$  ranges over  $R$ .*

**Definition:** An integral domain  $R$  with unit element is a **principle ideal ring** if every ideal  $A$  of  $R$  is of the form  $A = \langle a \rangle$  for some  $a \in R$

**Corollary 3.13.** *A Euclidean ring possesses a unit element.*

**Definition:** If  $a \neq 0$  and  $b$  are in a commutative ring  $R$ , then  $a$  is said to divide  $b$  there exists  $c \in R$  such that  $b = ac$  denoted by  $a \mid b$ .

**Remark 1.**

1.  $a \mid b, b \mid c \implies a \mid c$ .
2.  $a \mid b, a \mid c \implies a \mid (b \pm c)$ .
3.  $a \mid b \implies a \mid bx$  for all  $x \in R$ .

**Definition:** If  $a, b \in R$ , then  $d \in R$  is the **greatest common divisor** of  $a$  and  $b$  if

1.  $d \mid a, d \mid b$ .
2.  $c \mid a, c \mid b \implies c \mid d$ .

It is denoted as  $d = (a, b) = \gcd(a, b)$ .

**Lemma 3.14.** *Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring. Then, any two elements  $a$  and  $b$  in  $R$  have a greatest common divisor  $d$ . Moreover,  $d = \lambda a + \mu b$  for some  $\lambda, \mu \in R$ .*

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with unit element. An element  $a \in R$  is a **unit** in  $R$  if there exists an element  $b$  such that  $ab = 1$ .

A unit is an element whose multiplicative inverse exists in  $R$ .

**Lemma 3.15.** *Let  $R$  be an integral domain with unit element and suppose that for  $a, b \in R$  both  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid a$  are true. Then,  $a = ub$ , where  $u$  is a unit in  $R$ .*

**Definition:** In a commutative ring  $R$  with unit element, two elements  $a$  and  $b$  are **associates** if  $b = ua$  for some unit  $u \in R$ .

**Lemma 3.16.** *Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring and  $a, b \in R$  be non-zero elements. If  $b$  is not a unit in  $R$ , then  $d(a) < d(ab)$ .*

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be a Euclidean. A non-unit element  $\pi \in R$  is **prime** if whenever  $\pi = ab$ , one of  $a$  or  $b$  is a unit in  $R$ .

**Theorem 3.17.** *Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring. Then, every element is either a unit in  $R$  or can be written as a product of finite number prime elements.*

**Definition:** Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring. Two elements  $a$  and  $b$  in  $R$  are **relatively prime** if their greatest common divisor is a unit in  $R$ .

**Lemma 3.18.** *Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring. If  $a \mid bc$  but  $a$  and  $b$  are relatively prime, then  $a \mid c$ .*

**Lemma 3.19.** *If  $\pi$  is a prime element in a Euclidean ring  $R$ , then  $\pi \mid ab \implies \pi \mid a$  or  $\pi \mid b$ .*

**Theorem 3.20 (Unique factorization theorem).** *Let  $R$  be a Euclidean ring and  $a \neq 0$  be non-unit element of  $R$ . Suppose that  $a = \pi_1 \dots \pi_n = \pi'_1 \dots \pi'_m$  where  $\pi_i$  and  $\pi'_j$  are prime elements. Then,  $n = m$  and each  $\pi_i$  is an associate of a  $\pi'_j$  and each  $\pi'_j$  is an associate of a  $\pi_i$ .*

Combining unique factorization theorem with 3.17 gives that every non-zero element in  $R$  can be written uniquely up to associates as a product of primes in  $R$ .

**Lemma 3.21.** *The ideal  $A = \langle a_0 \rangle$  is a maximal ideal of the Euclidean ring  $R$  if and only if  $a_0$  is a prime element.*

## 3.7 A particular Euclidean ring

The domain of **Gaussian integers**  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, i = \sqrt{-1}\}$  is a Euclidean ring, with  $d(a + bi) = a^2 + b^2$ .

**Theorem 3.22.**  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is a Euclidean ring.

**Lemma 3.23.** *Let  $p$  be a prime integer and suppose for integer  $c$  relatively prime to  $p$  we can find integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $x^2 + y^2 = cp$ . Then,  $p$  can be written as a sum of two squares of integers. i.e. there exists integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a^2 + b^2 = p$ .*

**Lemma 3.24.** *If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , we can solve the congruence  $x^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ .*

**Theorem 3.25.** *If  $p$  is a prime of form  $4n + 1$ , then  $p = a^2 + b^2$  for some integers  $a$  and  $b$ .*

### 3.8 Polynomial rings

Let  $F$  be a field.  $F[x] = \{a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \mid n \geq 0, a_i \in F\}$  is the ring of polynomials in the indeterminate  $x$ .

**Definition:** If  $p(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_mx^m$  and  $q(x) = b_0 + \cdots + b_nx^n$  are in  $F[x]$ , then  $p(x) = q(x)$  if  $m = n$  and for each  $i \geq 0$ ,  $a_i = b_i$ .

**Definition:**  $p(x) + q(x) = c_0 + \cdots + c_kx^k$  where  $c_i = a_i + b_i$ .

**Definition:**  $p(x)q(x) = c_0 + \cdots + c_kx^k$  where  $c_i = \sum_{t=0}^i a_tb_{i-t}$ .

Therefore,  $F[x]$  is a commutative ring with unit element.

**Definition:** If  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \neq 0$  and  $a_n \neq 0$ , then the **degree** of  $f$  is  $n$ . *i.e.* the degree of  $f$ ,  $\deg f = \min\{n \geq 0 \mid a_k = 0, \forall k > n\}$ . The zero polynomial can be defined to be of infinite degree.

**Lemma 3.26.** *If  $f(x), g(x) \neq 0$  are two polynomials in  $F[x]$ , then*

$$\deg(fg) = \deg(f) + \deg(g)$$

**Corollary 3.27.**  *$f(x), g(x) \neq 0$ , then  $\deg(f) \leq \deg(fg)$ .*

**Corollary 3.28.**  *$F[x]$  is an integral domain.*

Since  $F[x]$  is an integral domain, we can construct its field of quotients which is the field of rational functions in  $x$  over  $F$ .

**Lemma 3.29 (The division algorithm).** *Given two polynomials  $f(x)$  and  $g(x) \neq 0$ , there exists two polynomials  $t(x), r(x) \in F[x]$  such that  $f(x) = t(x)g(x) + r(x)$  where  $r(x) = 0$  or  $\deg r < \deg g$ .*

**Theorem 3.30.**  *$F[x]$  is a Euclidean ring.*

**Theorem 3.31.**  *$F[x]$  is a principle ideal group.*

**Lemma 3.32.** *Given two polynomials  $f(x), g(x) \in F[x]$ , the greatest common divisor  $d(x) = (f(x), g(x))$  can be realized as  $d(x) = \lambda(x)f(x) + \mu(x)g(x)$  for some  $\lambda(x), \mu(x) \in F[x]$ .*

**Definition:** A polynomial  $p(x) \in F[x]$  is **irreducible** over  $F$  if whenever  $p(x) = a(x)b(x)$  with  $a(x), b(x) \in F[x]$ , one of  $a(x)$  or  $b(x)$  has degree 0.

**Lemma 3.33.** *Any polynomial in  $F[x]$  can be written in a unique manner as product of irreducible polynomials in  $F[x]$ .*

**Lemma 3.34.** *The ideal  $A = \langle p(x) \rangle$  in  $F[x]$  is a maximal ideal if and only  $p(x)$  is irreducible.*



### 3.9 Polynomials over field of rationals

**Definition:** The polynomial  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$  where  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  is said to be **primitive** if the greatest common divisor of  $a_0, \dots, a_n$  is 1.

**Lemma 3.35.** *If  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are primitive, then  $f(x)g(x)$  is a primitive polynomial.*

**Definition:** The **content** of a polynomial  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$  where  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  is the  $\gcd(a_0, \dots, a_n)$ .

**Theorem 3.36 (Guass' lemma).** *If primitive polynomial  $f(x)$  can be factored as a product of two polynomials with rational coefficients, it can be factored as the product of two polynomials with integer coefficients.*

**Definition:** A polynomial is said to be **integer monic** if all of its coefficients are integers and its highest coefficient is 1.

**Corollary 3.37.** *If an integer monic polynomial  $f(x)$  can be factored as a product of two polynomials with rational coefficients, it can be factored as a product of two integer monic polynomials.*

**Theorem 3.38 (The Eisenstein criterion).** *Let  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$  with  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose that for some  $p$ ,  $p \nmid a_n$ ,  $p \mid a_{n-1}, \dots, p \mid a_1$ ,  $p \mid a_0$ , but  $p^2 \nmid a_0$ . Then,  $f(x)$  is irreducible over rationals.*

### 3.10 Polynomial rings over commutative rings

$R[x] = \{a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \mid a_i \in R\}$ . For the rest of this section  $R$  is assumed to be commutative and have unit element.  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is the ring of polynomials in the indeterminate  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . It can be constructed as  $R[x_1][x_2] \cdots [x_n] = \left\{ \sum a_{i_1, \dots, i_n} x_1^{i_1} \cdots x_n^{i_n} \right\}$ .

**Lemma 3.39.** *If  $R$  is an integral domain, so is  $R[x]$  and by induction,  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is an integral domain.*