

# Math 250A

Fall 2015

8/27

## Group Action

A group  $G$  acts on a set  $S$ :

$$G \times S \rightarrow S$$

$$(g, s) \mapsto g \cdot s$$

$$e \cdot s = s$$

$$(gg') \cdot s = g \cdot (g' \cdot s)$$

Alternatively,

$$\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$$

$\phi$  is a homomorphism (gives the corresponding properties)

$$(\phi(g))(s) = g \cdot s$$

## Examples of Group Actions

The trivial action:

$$G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S) \text{ where } g \mapsto e_{\text{Perm}(S)}$$

$G$  acting on self by left/right translation, conjugation

$G$  acting on the set of subgroups of  $G$  by conjugation:

$$g \cdot H = gHg^{-1} = \{ghg^{-1} | h \in H\}$$

Normal subgroup  $N \trianglelefteq G$

$$G \text{ acting on } N, g \cdot n := gng^{-1} \in N$$

$G = S_3$  where  $S$  is the set of subgroups of  $G$  of order 2.

$$S = \{\{1, (1\ 2)\}, \{1, (1\ 3)\}, \{1, (2\ 3)\}\}$$

recall  $\sigma(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_k)\sigma^{-1} = (\sigma a_1, \sigma a_2, \sigma a_3, \dots, \sigma a_k)$

$V$  vector space over a field  $K$

$$G = \text{GL}(V) = \text{group of invertible linear maps } V \rightarrow V$$

e.g. if  $V = K^n$  then  $G = \text{GL}(n, K)$

$G$  acts on  $V$  (rather simply) by  $L \cdot v = L(v)$

## Orbits and Stabilizers

Given  $G$  acting on  $S$  by  $G \times S \rightarrow S$  there is an obvious relation on  $S$ :

$$s, s': s \sim s' \leftrightarrow \exists g \in G, s' = gs$$

the orbit of  $s$  is just the equivalence class of  $s$  under this relation

$$\text{i.e., } G \cdot s = \{g \cdot s | g \in G\}$$

The conjugacy classes of  $s$  are the orbits of  $S$  under the group action of  $G$  by conjugation

$$\text{the orbit of } s, O(s) = \{s\} \leftrightarrow s = gsg^{-1} \forall g$$

$$\leftrightarrow (\forall g)gs = sg$$

$$\leftrightarrow s \in Z(G) \text{ the center of the group}$$

Example, for  $G = S_3$

the orbit of 1 is  $\{1\}$

the orbit of  $(1\ 2) = \{(1\ 2), (1\ 3), (2\ 3)\}$

the orbit of  $(1\ 2\ 3) = \{(1\ 2\ 3), (1\ 3\ 2)\}$

Stabilizer (isotropy group) of a given element  $s \in S := G_s$

$$G_s = \{g \in G | g \cdot s = s\}$$

stabilizer is closed under inverses:  $g \in G_s \rightarrow g \cdot s = s \rightarrow g^{-1}gs = g^{-1}s \rightarrow s = g^{-1}s$

## large stabilizer $\leftrightarrow$ small orbit

there exists a natural bijection  $\alpha : G/G_s \rightarrow O(s)$  defined  $gG_s \mapsto g \cdot s$

well-definition:

$$\text{if } g_1G_s = g_2G_s \text{ then } \exists g \in G_s, g_1 = g_2g \text{ and } \alpha(g_1G_s) = g_1 \cdot s = g_2gs = g_2s = \alpha(g_2G_s)$$

injectivity:

$$\text{if } \alpha(g_1G_s) = g_1 \cdot s = g_2 \cdot s = \alpha(g_2G_s) \text{ then } g_2^{-1}g_1 \cdot s = s, g_2^{-1}g_1 \in G_s \text{ and } g_1G_s = g_2G_s$$

## 9/1

## Group Actions $\rightarrow$ Sylow theorems

Recall:

$$\text{the stabilizer } G_s = \{g \in G | g \cdot s = s\}$$

$$\text{the orbit } O(s) = \{g \cdot s | g \in G\}$$

$$G/G_s \cong O(s) \text{ and } \#(G/G_s) = \#O(s)$$

Let  $\Sigma$  = set of representatives for  $s \sim s' \leftrightarrow O(s) = O(s')$

$$\#S = \sum_{s \in \Sigma} \#O(s) = \sum_s (G : G_s)$$

$$G \text{ finite } (G : G_s) = \frac{\#G}{\#G_s}$$

$$\text{Mass formula } \#S = \left( \sum_s \frac{1}{\#(G_s)} \right) (\#G)$$

A subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  acted upon by  $G$  has orbits, cosets, and trivial stabilizer.

$$\text{Hence from the above } \#H_s = \#H, \text{ and } \#G = (G : H) \cdot \#H.$$

$$\text{This is a statement of Lagrange's Theorem, } (G : H) = \frac{\#G}{\#H}.$$

The kernel of the action

$$K = \bigcap_{s \in S} G_s$$

This is just the kernel of  $G \xrightarrow{\phi} \text{Perm}(S)$ .

We can relate the stabilizers of points in the same orbit.

Let  $s' = gs$ .

Assume  $x \in G_s$ .

Since  $x \in G_s$ ,  $(gxg^{-1})gs = g(xs) = gs$ .

Hence  $gxg^{-1} \in G_{gs}$ , so  $gG_sg^{-1} \subset G_{gs}$ .

Apply this relation with  $g \rightarrow g^{-1}$  and  $s \rightarrow gs$ :

Assume  $x \in G_{gs}$ .

Then  $(g^{-1}xg)(s) = (g^{-1})(xgs) = (g^{-1}gs) = s$ .

So  $g^{-1}G_{gs}g \subset G_s \rightarrow G_{gs} \subset gG_sg^{-1}$

Thus,  $gG_sg^{-1} = G_{gs} = G_{s'}$ .

The stabilizer of  $s' = gs$  is a conjugate of the stabilizer of  $s$ .

## Applications

$p$  : prime

$p$ -group: a finite group  $G$ ,  $\#G = p^n, n \geq 1$

“A  $p$ -group has a non-trivial center”

Recall: the center  $Z(G) = Z = \{g \in G \mid gs = sg \forall s \in G\}$ .

Since  $gs = sg \rightarrow s = gsg^{-1}$ , will be useful to consider action on self by conjugation.

$G$  a  $p$ -group,  $S$  a finite set. Then  $\#O(s) = \frac{\#G}{\#G_s} = \frac{p^n}{p^k}$ .

Two cases:

1)  $\#O(s) = 1$ ,  $s$  is fixed by  $G$ ,  $s \in S^G$  (set of fixed points of  $S$ )

2)  $(k < n)$ , thus  $\#O(s)$  is divisible by  $p$ .

$\#S = \text{sum of } \# \text{ of elements in the orbits} \equiv_{\text{mod } p} \# \text{ of orbits of size } 1 = \#(S^G)$ .

Take  $S = G$ , with action  $g : s \mapsto gsg^{-1}$ . Then  $S^G = Z(G)$ .

$\#Z(G) \equiv_{\text{mod } p} \#(S^G) \equiv_{\text{mod } p} \#S = \#G = p^n \equiv_{\text{mod } p} 0$ .

Thus, the order of the center is divisible by  $p$ , and must be non-trivial.

$H \leq G$  a finite group,  $(G : H) = p$ , the smallest prime dividing  $\#G \rightarrow H \trianglelefteq G$

Let  $S = G/H$ ;  $\#(S) = (G : H) = p$ , and let  $G$  act on  $S$  by left translation.

This induces  $\varphi : G \rightarrow S_p$ ; recall  $\#S_p = p!$

The stabilizer of  $H$ ,  $G_H = \{x \in G \mid xH = H\} = H$ .

By inspection, we can see that  $G_{gH} = gHg^{-1}$ .

Let  $K = \bigcap_{g \in G} gHg^{-1}$ , the largest normal subgroup contained in  $H$ .

Note that  $K = \ker(\varphi)$  induced above; by the First Isomorphism Theorem  $\varphi(G) \leq S_p$ .

$(G : K) = \#(G/K) = \#(\varphi(G))$ , which divides  $\#(S_p) = p!$

Further, since  $K \leq H \leq G$ ,  $(G : K) = (G : H)(H : K)$ .

Since  $(G : K)$  divides  $p!$  and  $(G : H)$  divides  $p$ ,  $(H : K)$  divides  $(p - 1)!$ .

But  $p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $\#G$ , so  $(H : K) = 1$ ,  $K = H$  and  $H$  is normal.

A familiar embedding of a group into a larger group; “Cauchy’s Theorem”

$G \hookrightarrow \text{Perm}(G)$  by letting  $G$  act on itself by left-translation.

Its kernel  $K = \{g \in G \mid gs = s\forall s\} = \{e\}$  (consider  $s = e$ ), hence is an injection.

Since an injection, an embedding.

Recall  $S_n \subset$  group of  $n \times n$  invertible matrices.  $\sigma \mapsto M(\sigma)$  a permutation matrix.

Need to be careful in the construction to ensure  $M(\sigma\tau) = M(\sigma)M(\tau)$ !

E.g.  $\sigma = (132)$  does  $M(\sigma)$  have 1 in the 1st column, 3rd row?

Or in the 1st row, 3rd column? One of these yields  $M(\sigma\tau) = M(\tau)M(\sigma)$ .

$G$  finite of order  $n$ ;  $V$  the vector space of functions  $G \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{Z}$ ; note  $V \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$

Linear maps  $V \rightarrow V$  correspond to  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{Z}$ :  $GL(V) \approx GL(n, \mathbb{Z})$ .

Similarly, invertible linear maps correspond to  $n \times n$  invertible matrices over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

We can embed  $G$  in  $GL(n, \mathbb{Z})$  by using a left action of  $G$  on  $GL(n, \mathbb{Z}) = \{\phi : V \rightarrow V\}$

Recall that  $V = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

This left action takes the form  $L_g \mapsto \phi$  where  $\phi(f(x)) = f(xg)$

$L_{gg'} = L_{g'} \circ L_g$  as desired? Verify for yourself.

**Check this over.**

$L_{gg'}(\phi(x)) = \phi(xgg') = L_{g'}(\phi(xg)) = L_{g'} \circ L_g(\phi(x))$

$g \mapsto L_g$  is a homomorphism  $G \rightarrow GL(V)$

Using  $\mathbb{F}_p$  instead of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , get  $G \hookrightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{F}_p)$ , an embedding into a finite group.

9/3

## Sylow Theorems

Lagrange: If  $H \leq G$  then  $\#(H) \mid \#(G)$ .

$A_4$  with  $n = 6$  gives the counterexample to the converse.

Salvaging the converse: the case where  $n = p^k$ ,  $p$  prime.

(Sylow I): If  $|G| = p^k \cdot r$ ,  $(p, r) = 1$

$\exists H \leq G$  such that  $|H| = p^k$

Such an  $H$  is called a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$

Generally assuming  $k \neq 0$

Example:  $\mathbb{Z}_{12}$

has 2-sylow subgroup  $\{0, 3, 6, 9\}$  and 3-sylow subgroup  $\{0, 4, 8\}$

Example:  $D_6$  generated by  $r, s$  subject to  $rs = sr^{-1}$ ,  $r^6 = e$ ,  $s^2 = e$ , has order 12

$\#(D_6) = 12$  so has 3-sylow subgroup  $\{1, r^2, r^4\}$

Also has 2-sylow subgroups  $\{1, r^3, s, r^3s\}$ ,  $\{1, r^3, rs, r^4s\}$ ,  $\{1, r^3, r^2s, r^5s\}$

Example:  $G = GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$ ,  $n \times n$  linear transformations in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , equal to  $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_p^n)$

The order of  $|G|$ :

Asserting linear independence in each vector of an  $n \times n$  matrix

$|G| = (p^n - 1)(p^n - p)(p^n - p^2) \cdots (p^n - p^{n-1}) = p^{1+2+3+\cdots+n-1} \cdot r = p^{\frac{n^2-n}{2}} \cdot r$   
 $(p, r) = 1$

Consider  $P$  the set of  $n \times n$  upper triangular matrices with 1's on the diagonal.

Then  $|P| = p^{1+2+3+\cdots+n-1} = p^{\frac{n^2-n}{2}}$ , and  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup.

Theorem: (Sylow I)  $p$ -Sylow subgroups always exist.

Proof Sketch:

Suppose  $|H| = p^k \cdot r$ ,  $(p, r) = 1$ ,  $k > 0$

Show  $\exists G, H \leq G$ , where  $G$  has a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup

Show that if  $G$  has a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup and  $H \leq G$ , then  $H$  has a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup

Proof:

By Cayley's theorem, if  $|H| = n$ , then  $H \leq S_n$ .

( $H$  acts on itself by left translates. This yields an embedding into  $S_n$ .)

Additionally  $S_n \leq GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$  mapping to permutation matrices.

Alternatively, consider  $V \cong \mathbb{F}_p^n$ , the vector space of functions  $\varphi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ .

Embed  $H$  into  $GL(V)$  by this action:  $g \in H \mapsto$  automorphism taking  $\varphi(x)$  to  $\varphi(xg)$ .

(Recall end of previous lecture).

We know that  $GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$  has  $p$ -Sylow subgroups. (from the lower triangular matrices)

Let  $G = GL_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .

Let  $P$  be a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ . Consider  $G$  acting on the set of cosets of  $P$ .

Now,  $Stab(gP) = gPg^{-1}$ . (guest lecturer notation for stabilizer)

Similarly, letting  $H$  act on  $G/P$ ,  $Stab(gP) = (gPg^{-1} \cap H)$

This intersection is a  $p$ -group.

Want to choose  $g \in G$  such that  $gPg^{-1} \cap H$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup.

If  $(H : (gPg^{-1} \cap H))$  is coprime to  $p$ , then  $gPg^{-1} \cap H$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup.

By Orbit-Stabilizer,  $(H : (gPg^{-1} \cap H)) = O(gP)$ .

Note this is an orbit of  $G/P$  induced by the action of the group  $H$ .

Since  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ ,  $|G/P| \not\equiv_{\text{mod } p} 0$ .

The sum of the orbits is  $|G/P|$ .

Hence there must be some orbit with size coprime to  $p$ .

Corollary: All  $p$ -subgroups of  $H$  are contained in a conjugate of  $P$ .

Let  $J \leq H$  be a  $p$ -subgroup. Then  $J \cap gPg^{-1}$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $J$  for some  $g \in G$ .

So since  $J$  is a  $p$ -group  $J \cap gPg^{-1} = J$ , i.e.  $J \subset gPg^{-1}$ .

(since a  $p$ -group can't contain a proper  $p$ -Sylow subgroup by definition)

Corollary: (Sylow II) All  $p$ -Sylow groups are conjugate.

Proof:

Let  $H \leq G$  and  $P \leq G$  be  $p$ -Sylow subgroups.

By the preceding corollary,  $H \subset gPg^{-1}$  for some  $g \in G$ .

Since  $|H| = |P| = |gPg^{-1}|$ ,  $H \cap gPg^{-1} = H$ .

Corollary: Every  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$  is contained in a  $p$ -Sylow of  $G$ .

By the above, each is contained in a conjugate of  $P$ , said conjugate being a  $p$ -Sylow.

The  $p$ -Sylow subgroups in  $G$  are all conjugate, so that:

If  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow of  $G$  then  $G/N(P)$  is the set of  $p$ -Sylows in  $G$ .

Where  $N(P)$  is the normalizer of  $P$ .

So there are  $(G : N(P))$   $p$ -Sylows in total.

Lemma: If a finite p-group  $\Gamma$  acts on a set  $X$ , then  $\#(X) \equiv_{\text{mod } p} \#(X^\Gamma)$   
 $(X^\Gamma$  the fixed points of  $X$  under  $\Gamma$ ).

Proof:

$$\#X = \sum_i \#Orb(x_i) = \sum_i \frac{|\Gamma|}{|\text{Stab}(x_i)|} \equiv_{\text{mod } p} \#X^\Gamma$$

$$\text{Each } \frac{|\Gamma|}{|\text{Stab}(x_i)|} \equiv_{\text{mod } p} 1 \text{ if } x_i \text{ fixed, else } \frac{|\Gamma|}{|\text{Stab}(x_i)|} \equiv_{\text{mod } p} 0.$$

Let  $\text{Syl}_p(G)$  describe the p-Sylow subgroups of  $G$  and  $n_p$  denote its cardinality.

Theorem: (Sylow III) If  $|G| = p^k \cdot r$ ,  $k > 0$  then  $n_p \equiv_{\text{mod } p} 1$ . Further,  $n_p | r$ .

Proof:

Let  $P$  act on  $\text{Syl}_p(G)$  by conjugation.

By the lemma,  $\#\text{Syl}_p(G) = n_p \equiv_{\text{mod } p} (\#\text{Syl}_p(G))^P$ .

Suppose  $Q$  is fixed under the group action. Then  $pQp^{-1} = Q \forall p \in P$ .

Then  $P \leq N(Q)$ ; similarly  $Q \leq N(Q)$ .

$P, Q$  are p-Sylow subgroups of  $N(Q)$ ; therefore  $P, Q$  are conjugate in  $N(Q)$ .

However,  $Q \trianglelefteq N(Q)$  so that  $Q$  is equal to all its conjugates in  $N(Q)$ , and  $P = Q$ .

Hence  $P$  is the only fixed Sylow-p subgroup so  $(\#\text{Syl}_p(G))^P \equiv_{\text{mod } p} 1$ .

$G$  acts on  $\text{Syl}_p(G)$  as only one orbit since all p-Sylows in  $G$  are conjugate.

$(G : P) = n_p$ ,  $n_p = |G| = p^k \cdot r$ ,  $n_p | p^k \cdot r$ , but  $n_p \nmid p$ , so  $n_p | r$ .

9/8

## Review of Sylow Theorems

Prove existence by showing existence in a larger known subgroup.

And then that contained subgroups must have their own Sylow p-subgroups.

$$O(s) = S = \{\text{p-Sylows}\}$$

$$O(s) = G/G_s = G/N(P)$$

The number of p-Sylows is notated  $n_p = (G : N(P))$

$P, Q$  p-Sylows and  $P \subset N(Q)$  then  $P = Q$

reason:  $PQ \leq G$  a subgroup of  $G$

$HK$  not necessarily a group, but will be if one normalizes the other

ie  $H \subset N(K)$

Theorem  $n_p \equiv_{\text{mod } p} 1$

Consider the action of  $P$  on  $S$  by conjugation

Take  $x \in P$  and  $x : Q \mapsto xQx^{-1}$

The number of fixed points is 1, since  $P$  fixes only itself

A simple group has

more than one element

no non-trivial proper normal subgroups

(kind of like a prime number)

$G$  finite abelian

$G$  simple  $\leftrightarrow G$  cyclic of prime order (simple easy exercise)

## continuing...

non-sporadic finite simple groups

$A_n (n \leq 5)$

recall the alternating groups  $A_n$  are the even permutations on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

Lie groups over finite fields, e.g.  $\left\{ \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \subset SL(2, \mathbb{Z}|p\mathbb{Z})$

$P$  = projective;  $PSL(2, \mathbb{Z}|p\mathbb{Z}) = SL(2, \mathbb{Z}|p\mathbb{Z})$

Simple groups of order  $\leq 60$ .

(a) There are no non-abelian simple groups of order  $< 60$

(b) If  $G$  is simple of order 60, then  $G \cong A_5$ .

$(\#A_n = \frac{n!}{2})$

$G$  simple of order 60.

$H < G$  simple (finite),  $H$  proper,  $(G : H) = n \geq 2$

$G$  acts on  $G/H$  by left translation.

The action is transitive (for each pair  $xH, yH$ ,  $\exists$  permutation taking one to the other)

Therefore, this action is non-trivial.

$\pi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(G/H) = S_n$

$\ker(\pi) \neq G$  and is a normal subgroup  $\rightarrow$  the kernel is trivial.

$\pi : G \hookrightarrow S_n$  and in fact  $\pi : G \hookrightarrow A_n$  (if  $\#G > 2$ )

Why? because  $G \cap A_n \trianglelefteq G$

If  $G \subset S_n$ .

Then  $G \rightarrow S_n/A_n = \{\pm 1\}$  by the sign map, kernel is  $G \cap A_n$ .

Recall  $\text{sgn} : S_n \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$   $\text{sgn}(\sigma) = (-1)^t$  given  $t$ , num of transpositions

$G/(G \cap A_n) \hookrightarrow S_n/A_n = \{\pm 1\}$

$(G : G \cap A_n) = 1$  or  $2$ .

If  $G$  is simple then this cannot be 2 (would be normal subgroup), so  $= 1$ .

And  $G \hookrightarrow A_n$  for that  $A_n$ .

$G$  simple, order 60.

$H$  a proper subgroup of  $G$ , index  $n$ . (consider small values of  $n$ )

If  $n = 2$  then  $H$  is normal in  $G$ , a contradiction.

(smallest prime dividing the order of a group)

If  $n = 3$  or  $n = 4$ :  $G \hookrightarrow A_3, A_4$  but their orders are too small (3, 12)

If  $n = 5$ :  $G \hookrightarrow A_5$  and they are equal in cardinality  $\rightarrow$  done.

Remaining case:  $n = 15$ .

What is  $n_5$ , the number of 5-Sylow subgroups.

$n_5 | 60/5 = 12$ ,  $n_5 = (G : N(P))$   $n_5$  divides the index

Also,  $n_5 \equiv_{\text{mod } 5} 1$ .

Thus  $n_5 = 1$  or  $n_5 = 6$ .

If  $n_5 = 1$  then only one 5-Sylow subgroup of  $G$ , must be normal.

This is impossible since  $G$  is simple.

Then  $n_5 = 6$ : tells you there are lots of elements of order 5 in  $G$ .

There is no overlap (excepting at the identity) between 5-Sylows.

Hence the number of elements of order 5 is  $6 \cdot 4 = 24$

Elements of order 5 in  $A_5$  are 5-cycles (a b c d e).

Need to take all strings of length 5: 120, and divide out by rotations 5.

Thus we get  $120/5 = 24$  (check).

Consider  $n_2$  the number of 2-Sylow subgroups.

Then  $n_2$  divides  $60/4 = 15$ , and  $n_2 \neq 1$  because of simplicity.

Also,  $n_2 = (G : N(P_2))$ , and this can't be 3 since  $G$  has no subgroup of index 3.

If  $n_2 = 5$  then  $N(P_2)$  is the desired index-5 subgroup  $\rightarrow$  done.

From divisibility  $n_2 = 1, 3, 5, 15$ .

Eliminate 1 by simplicity, 3 since the index is too small, 5 works, consider 15.

Considering the situation where there are 15 2-Sylow subgroups (of order 4).

These are groups like the Klein 4-group (no elements of order 4).

There are 2 2-Sylow subgroups  $P$  and  $Q$  where  $P \cap Q$  has order 2.

Prove by counting.

Taking intersection, must be proper else they would be the same.

Hence  $P \cap Q$  has order 1 or 2.

If there is utterly no overlap, there are  $15 \cdot 3 + 1 = 46$  elt's of 2-Sylows.

And these do not have order 5. But there are 24 elements of order 5. Too many.

Now we know that some of these 2-Sylow subgroups have non-trivial overlap.

Consider  $N(P \cap Q)$  for some such intersection, will be a subgroup of  $G$ .

Cannot be all of  $G$ ,  $G$  is simple. (would make  $P \cap Q$  normal)

$N(P \cap Q)$  contains  $P$  and  $Q$  since both are abelian.

Each are normal subgroups of  $N(P \cap Q)$ , so its order is divisible by 4.

Hence could have order 12, 20, or 60 (divisible by 4, divides 60).

Its index cannot be 1 ( $G$  is simple) cannot be 3 ( $A_n$  too small), = 5.

QED (revisit why).

Jordan-Hölder theorem

Website reference.

$G$  finite non-trivial. Is  $G$  simple?  $\{e\} \subset G$ ,  $G/\{e\}$  simple.

Not simple  $G \supset G_1 \supset (e)$ ,  $G_1 \trianglelefteq G$ ,  $G_1$ ,  $G/G_1$  smaller than  $G$ .

Keep going until 'end', using principle of string induction.c

Proposition:  $\exists G = G_0 \supset G_1 \supset G_2 \supset \cdots \supset G_n$ ,  $G_{i+1} \trianglelefteq G_i$ ,  $G_i/G_{i+1}$  simple.

A normal tower or composition series, the simple quotients are the constituents.

Obtain a successive extension of simple groups.

Main point.

$N = p_1 \cdots p_n$

$\{p_1, p_2, \cdots, p_n\}$  a set where order doesn't count but multiplicity does.

Gauss's theorem: (FTA) each prime decomposition of  $N$  yields the same set.

Similarly, given  $G$  and  $G_i/G_{i+1} = Q_i$  and  $\{Q_0, \cdots, Q_{n-1}\}$ .

Order not mattering, multiplicity matters, up to isomorphism.

Theorem: Each composition yields the same multiset.

Theorem of "Camille Jordan and some guy named Hölder."



9/10

## Jordan-Hölder Theorem.

$$G = G_0 \supset G_1 \supset G_2 \supset \cdots \supset G_n$$

$$G_{i+1} \trianglelefteq G_i, G_i/G_{i+1} = Q_i \text{ simple.}$$

Statement of the theorem:

The “set” (multiplicity matters)  $\{Q_0, \dots, Q_{n-1}\}$  is independent of the filtration.

Order doesn't count,  $Q_i$  up to isomorphism.

Proof strategy: by induction.

If  $G$  has a filtration with  $n$  quotients, then all filtrations have  $n$  quotients.

And all filters have the same set of quotients.

Question, can two different groups have the same reduction?

Answer: yes.  $S_3 \supset A_3 \supset \{e\}$ . Quotients  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ .

Also  $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z} \supset 3\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z} \supset 6\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ , same quotients but radically different structure.

“Knowing the building blocks does not confer knowledge of the building”.

Demonstrating the existence of such a filtration for a group  $G \neq \{e\}$ .

Similar to the proof of prime decompositions.

If it is simple, then the filtration is  $G \supset \{e\}$ , done.

If  $G$  is not simple,  $G \supset N \supset \{e\}$ , and  $G/N, N$  smaller than  $G$ .

Strong induction.  $\bar{G} = G/N$ , then  $\bar{G} \supset \bar{G}_1 \supset \cdots$  and similarly for  $N \supset H_1 \supset \cdots$

Note there is a correspondence b/t subgroups of  $G$  con't  $N$  and subgroups of  $G/N$

$$G \supset L \supset N, L/N \subset G/N \text{ and } \pi : G \rightarrow G/N, \pi^{-1}(K) \subset G \text{ and } K \subset G/N.$$

Base case  $n = 1$ ,  $G \supset \{e\}$ ,  $G/\{e\}$  simple and  $G$  simple.

Supposing  $G \supset G_1 \supset \cdots \supset G_n \supset \{e\} = G_{n+1}$  and  $G \supset G'_1 \supset \cdots \supset G'_m \supset \{e\} = G'_{m+1}$ .

?  $m = n$ ,  $\{G_i/G_{i+1}\} = \{G'_j/G'_{j+1}\}$  ... If  $G'_1 = G_1$ , then done by induction.

Assume  $G_1, G'_1$  are distinct. Then  $G_1 \cap G'_1$  is smaller than  $G_1$  or  $G'_1$ .

Also,  $G_1 G'_1$  is a subgroup since its factors are normal by hypothesis.

Indeed, it is also a normal subgroup since  $G_1$  and  $G'_1$  are invariant under conjugation.

Additionally,  $G_1 G'_1$  is of size larger than  $G_1$  and  $G'_1$ . Thus it must be equal to  $G$ .

Can map  $G'_1/(G_1 \cap G'_1) \rightarrow G_1 G'_1/G_1$ . Kernel is exactly  $G_1 \cap G'_1$ , hence injection.

This defines  $G'_1/(G_1 \cap G'_1) \hookrightarrow G/G_1$ . Symmetrically,  $G_1/(G_1 \cap G'_1) = G/G'_1$ .

Have  $G_1 \supset \cdots \supset G_n \supset \{e\} = G_{n+1}$ .

Take  $G_1 \supset G_1 \cap G'_1 = H \supset H_1 \supset H_2 \supset \cdots \supset H_k \supset \{e\}$ , a Jordan-Hölder filtration of  $G_1$ .

Obtained by induction.

Note  $G_1/H = G/G'_1$  is the first quotient of this filtration.

By induction, these two filtrations have the same length.

The constituents of  $G_1$  are the constituents of  $H$ , with  $G_1/H = G/G'_1$  appended.

Constituents:  $G/G_1$  + constituents of  $G_1 = G/G_1 + G/G'_1$  + constituents of  $H$ .

Have  $G \supset G'_1 \supset H \supset H_1 \supset \cdots \supset H_k = \{e\}$ , same length as  $G'_1 \supset G'_2 \supset \cdots \supset G'_m = \{e\}$ .

Have related two different filtrations that have are unrelated, by a common filtration, which depends on the intersection of these two filtrations.

## Free Groups

Let  $S$  be a set, define the free abelian group on  $S$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}^S = \mathbb{Z}\langle S \rangle = \{ \sum_{s \in S} n_s \cdot s \mid n_s \in \mathbb{Z} \}$ .

Where all but finitely many of the  $n_s$  are 0.

$S = \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}^S = \mathbb{Z}^n = \{ (c_1, \dots, c_n) \mid c_i \in \mathbb{Z} \}$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i x^i = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i \cdot i \in \mathbb{Z}\langle S \rangle$$

where  $n_i = 0$  for  $i \gg 0$ .

“To map  $\mathbb{Z}\langle X \rangle$  to  $A$  in the world of abelian groups is to map  $S$  to  $A$  in the world of sets.”

$S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}\langle S \rangle$  a set map,  $s \in S \mapsto 1 \cdot s$ .

Given  $f : \mathbb{Z}\langle S \rangle \rightarrow A$  a homomorphism.

And in fact,  $F : \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}\langle X \rangle, A) \rightarrow \text{Maps}(S, A)$ ,  $F$  is a bijection.

These elements of the free abelian group are “formal sums”.

That is, an  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .

Let  $f : \mathbb{Z}\langle S \rangle \rightarrow A$ ,  $f(\sum_{s \in S} n_s s) = \sum_{s \in S} n_s f(s)$

An abelian group  $A$  is free of finite rank if  $A \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$  for some  $n \geq 0$  ( $\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}\langle \emptyset \rangle = 0$ ).

Define  $\text{rank}(A) = n$ . If  $\mathbb{Z}^m \cong A \cong \mathbb{Z}^n$  then  $n = m$ .

Why? Take positive integer  $> 1$ , e.g. 2. Then  $\mathbb{Z}^n / 2\mathbb{Z}^n \cong \mathbb{Z}^m / 2\mathbb{Z}^m$ .

LHS has  $2^n$  elts and RHS has  $2^m$  elts so  $n = m$ .

A subgroup of a free abelian group of rank  $n$  is a free abelian group of rank  $\leq n$ .

Proof: by induction on  $n$ .

$n = 0$ :  $A = (0) = B$ .

$n = 1$ :  $A = \mathbb{Z} \supset B$ . What are the subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$ ?  $(0), (t) = t\mathbb{Z}, t \geq 1$ .

Proof by division algorithm:  $\mathbb{Z} \supset B \neq 0$ ,  $t =$  smallest positive integer in  $B$ .

Division algorithm ensures that all elements are multiples of  $t$ .

$B \subset \mathbb{Z}^n \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{Z}$ .

$\pi : (c_1, \dots, c_n) \mapsto c_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Cases:

(1)  $\pi(B) = (0), B \subset \mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$ , free of rank  $\leq n - 1$

(2)  $\pi(B) = t\mathbb{Z}, t \geq 1$

$B \xrightarrow{\pi|_B} t\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\text{surj.}} 0$

$\ker(\pi)|_B = C$  free of rank  $\leq n - 1$ .

Choose  $b \in B$  such that  $\pi(b) = t$ .

$C \subset \mathbb{Z}^{n-1} : C = \ker(\pi)|_B$ , free of rank  $\leq n - 1$ .

$C = B \cap \mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$

$C \subset B, \mathbb{Z} \cdot b \subset B$

**Missing (pf in Lang)**

Simple linear algebra.

$a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  corresponds to a homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow A$ ,  $(c_1, \dots, c_n) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n c_i a_i$ .

These are linearly independent if  $f$  is 1-to-1, and these span/generate  $A$  if  $f$  is onto.

$A$  is finitely generated if  $A$  is spanned by  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  for some  $n \geq 0, a_i \in A$

$A$  is finitely generated iff  $A$  is a quotient of  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  for some  $n$ .

Corollary: a subgroup of a finitely generated abelian group is again finitely generated.

$\mathbb{Z}^n \xrightarrow{f} A$  finitely generated, have  $B \subset A$ ,  $f^{-1}(B) \leq \mathbb{Z}^n$ , and  $f^{-1}(B) \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$ ,  $k \leq n$ .

A finitely generated, torsion-free.

I.e. given  $a \in A$  and  $n \cdot a = 0$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , then  $a = 0$ .

Statement: A is free and of finite rank.

Proof: Take a finite set of generators S in which take T lin indep and large as possible.

take  $T = a_1, \dots, a_k$  and  $S = a_1, \dots, a_k, \dots, a_m$

$\sum_1^{k+1} c_k a_k = 0$ ,  $c_{k+1} \neq 0$

$B = \text{span}\{a_1, \dots, a_k\} \cong \mathbb{Z}^k$ .

$a_{k+1}, \dots, a_m$ : some multiple lies on B.

$N \geq 1$ ;  $N \cdot A \subset B$ .

Th:  $NA$  free,  $N : A \rightarrow NA$  A torsion free.

Multiplication on A by a positive integer is injective.

A is isomorphic to  $NA$  by the multiplication by n, since  $NA$  is free, A is free.

9/15