Algebra Winter Notes

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 $\it Note:$ Theorem numbers come from the order they are presented in lecture, and do not correspond to any textbook or written course material.

Week 1

Introduction to Groups

1.1 What is a group?

Definition of a group:

A **group** G is a nonempty set together with a multiplication $G \times G \to G$ satisfying

- 1. $(ab)c = a(bc) \forall a, b, c \in G$, (Associativity)
- 2. there exists $e \in G$ such that $ea = ae = a \forall a \in G$, (Identity)
- 3. and for every $a \in G$ there exists $b \in G$ such that ab = ba = e. (Inverse)

Example of a group:

Let $\mathbb{R}^{\times} = \mathbb{R}^{\dagger} = \{a \in \mathbb{R} : a \neq 0\}$ together with multiplication on \mathbb{R} .

Associativity is immediate.

The identity is $1 \in \mathbb{R}^{\times}$.

For every $a \in \mathbb{R}^{\times}$, $\frac{1}{a} \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a(\frac{1}{a}) = \frac{1}{a}(a) = 1$.

So \mathbb{R}^{\times} is a group.

Remark: When we need to highlight the group multiplication we write a group as a pair of the set and the multiplication, e.g., $(\mathbb{R}, +), (\mathbb{R}, \cdot)$. From now on, G is **always** a group.

Theorem 1.1

There is a unique identity element in G.

Theorem 1.2 Cancellation

Suppose ba = ca for $a, b, c \in G$. Then b = c

Proof. Let $d \in G$ be an inverse for a, i.e. da = ad = e. Multiplying on the right by d, we obtain

$$(ba)d = (ca)d \implies b(ad) = c(ad)$$

 $\implies be = ce$
 $\implies b = c.$

Theorem 1.3 Uniqueness of Inverses

For every $a \in G$ there is a unique element $a^{-1} \in G$ such that $aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a = e$.

Proof. Suppose $a \in G$ and $b, b' \in G$ are inverses of a, then

$$ba = e = b'a \implies b = b'$$

(by theorem 1.2)

Example of inverses in different groups:

- 1. For $b \in \mathbb{R}^{\times}$, $b^{-1} = \frac{1}{b}$.
 - 2. For $b \in \mathbb{R}$ under addition $b^{-1} = -b$.
 - 3. For $b \in \mathbb{Z}_n$, $b^{-1} = n b$.

Example of groups using a field F:

- 1. (F, +) is a group (Imitate $(\mathbb{R}, +)$).
 - 2. (F^{\times}, \cdot) where $F^{\times} = F^{\dagger} = \{a \in F : a \neq 0\}$ is a group. In particular, if p is a prime number, then $\mathbb{Z}_p^{\times} = \{1, \dots, p-1\}$ is a group.
 - 3. The set of $m \times n$ matrices with entries in F, $M_{mn}(F)$ is a group under addition. When n = 1, $M_{m1}(F) = F^m$.
 - 4. The set of invertible $m \times n$ matrices with entries in F, $GL(n, F) = \{A \in M_{mn}(F) : \det(A) \neq 0\}$ together with matrix multiplication is called (rank n) **general linear group** (over F). The identity matrix $I \in GL(n, F)$ is the identity. $\det(A) \neq 0 \implies \exists A^{-1} \in GL(n, F)$ such that $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$.

Example of the symmetries of the equilateral triangle:

Let $\sigma =$ flip through the vertical axis. Let $\rho =$ rotation by $\frac{2\pi}{3}$.

We can compose two symmetries, e.g., $\sigma \rho = \sigma \cdot \rho$.

We can show that the symmetries given by σ and ρ under composition are $\{e, \rho, \rho^2, \sigma, \sigma\rho, \sigma\rho^2\}$ where e = doing nothing.

We call this set D_3 . It forms a group under composition. Clearly $\rho^3 = \rho \rho \rho = e$, $\sigma^2 = \sigma \sigma = e$, and $\sigma \rho \sigma = \rho^2 = \rho^{-1}$.

Definition of a dihedral group:

The **dihedral group** of order 2n is defined by

$$D_n = \left\{ e, \rho, \dots, \rho^{n-1}, \sigma, \sigma\rho, \dots, \sigma\rho^{n-1} \right\}$$

where $p^n=e,\ \sigma^2=e,\ {\rm and}\ \sigma\rho\sigma=\rho^{-1}.$ This is a group with the multiplication given by $\sigma\rho\sigma=\rho^{-1}.$

Remark: D_n is the group of symmetries of a regular n-gon.

Definition of an Abelian Group:

A group G is abelian (commutative) if ab = ba for all $a, b \in G$

Example of classifying groups:

- 1. (F, +) where F is a field is Abelian.
- 2. (F^{\times}, \cdot) where F is a field is Abelian.
- 3. $(M_{mn}(F), +)$ is Abelian.
- 4. $(GL(n,F),\cdot)$ is not Abelian.
- 5. D_n is not Abelian.

Definition of the group of units:

Let $n \ge 2$ and $U(n) = \{1 \le k \le n - 1 : \gcd(k, n) = 1\}$. U(n) is called the **group of units** of \mathbb{Z}_n

Recall Facts about $d = \gcd(a, b)$:.

- 1. $d \mid a$ and $d \mid b$, and d is the largest integer with this property
- 2. There exists $l, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that gcd(a, b) = la + mb
- 3. gcd(a, b) is the smallest positive \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of a and b.
- 4. If $f \mid a$ and $f \mid b$ then f divides $\gcd(a,b) = la + mb \implies f \mid d$

Example of U(n) together with multiplication $mod\ n$ is a group: Facts 2 and 3 tell us that $\gcd(k,n)=1 \iff \exists l,m\in\mathbb{Z}$ such that lk+mn=1. So $U(2)=\{1\}$, $U(3)=\{1,2\}$, $U(4)=\{1,3\}$, $U(5)=\{1,2,3,4\}$, etc. So $U(p)=\{1,\ldots,p-1\}=\mathbb{Z}_p^\times$ where p is prime.

Definition of exponentiation:

Suppose $g \in G$.

- 1. $g^0 = e$
- 2. $g^n = g \cdot \cdots \cdot g \ (n \text{ times})$
- 3. $q^{-n} = (q^{-1})^n$

Theorem 1.4 Socks and Shoes

Suppose $a, b \in G$. Then $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$ (only relevant for non-abelian groups)

Proof.

$$(ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = aea^{-1} = aa^{-1} = e$$

 $(b^{-1}a^{-1})(ab) = b^{-1}eb = b^{-1}b = e$

Definition of the order of a group and its elements:

The number of elements in G is called the **order** of G. Suppose $a \in G$. Then the **order of a** is the largest positive integer n such that $a^n = e$. If no such integer exists, we say a has **infinite order**. We denote the order of a by |a|.

Example of the order of $\{e\}$:

We know
$$|\{e\}| = 1$$
, and $e^1 = e \implies |e| = 1$

Example of the order of \mathbb{R}^{\times} :

 \mathbb{R}^{\times} is an infinite group so it has infinite order.

Obviously, |1| = 1.

$$|-1| = 2$$
 since $(-1)^2 = 1$ and $(-1)^1 \neq 1$.

All other real numbers in \mathbb{R}^{\times} have infinite order.

Example of the order of D_3 :

$$|D_3| = 6.$$

 $|\sigma| = 2, |\rho| = 3, |\rho^2| = 3, |\sigma\rho| = 2, |\sigma\rho^2| = 2.$

1.2 Subgroups and subgroup tests

Definition of a subgroup:

A **subgroup** of G is a subset $H \subseteq G$ which is a group under the same group multiplication as G.

Example of subgroups:

•

1. $\{\pm 1\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{\times}$ is a subgroup

2. $\mathbb{Z}_5 \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ is not a subgroup of \mathbb{Z} since they have different group multiplications

Theorem 1.5 2-step subgroup test

Suppose H is a non-empty subset of G. Then H is a subgroup of G if and only if:

- 1. $a, b \in H \implies ab \in H$ (closure under multiplication)
- 2. $a \in H \implies a^{-1} \in H$ (closure under inverse)

Theorem 1.6 1-test subgroup test

 $\emptyset \neq H \subseteq G$ is a subgroup $\iff a, b \in H \implies ab^{-1} \in H$

Proof. The forward direction is immediate.

" \Leftarrow " Suppose 1 and 2 hold. 1 tells us that the group multiplication on G restricts to a multiplication on H. The associativity of this multiplication on H is inherited from the associativity of the group multiplication on G.

By 1 and 2, for any $a \in H$, $a^{-1}inH$ and $e = aa^{-1} \in H$. Therefore $e \in H$.

Finally, 2 is the inverse axiom for H.

Example of showing subgroup-ness:

Let
$$\mu_4 = \{ a \in \mathbb{C}^\times : a^4 = 1 \} = \{1, -1, i, -i \}.$$

 $\mu_4 \neq \emptyset.$

$$a, b \in \mu_4 \implies (ab)^4 = a^4b^4 = (1)(1) = 1 \implies ab \in \mu_4$$

 $a \in \mu_4 \implies (a^{-1})^4 = a^{-4} = (a^4)^{-1} = 1^{-1} = 1 \implies a^{-1} \in \mu_4$

Theorem 1.7 Finite subgroup test

Suppose $H \neq \emptyset$ is a finite subset $H \subseteq G$. Then H is a subgroup \iff $a, b \in H \implies ab \in H$.

Proof. "⇒ " Follows from 2-step subgroup test.

" ⇐ " By the 2-step subgroup test it is enough to show that if $a, b \in H \implies ab \in H$ then $b \in H \implies b^{-1} \in H$ also holds. Suppose $a, b \in H \implies ab \in H$ (*). Suppose $e \neq b \in H$. Let's prove $b^{-1} \in H$ By (*), $b^2 = bb \in H$, and by induction, $b^n \in H$ for all $n \geq 1$. Since H is a finite set, $b^k = b^j$ for some $k > j \geq 1 \implies b^k b^{-j} = b^j b^{-k} = e \implies b^{k-j} = e$ for $k - j \geq 1$. So $b^{-1} = b^{k-j-1}$. k - j - 1 cannot be zero, since then b = e. So $k - j - 1 \geq 1$ and so $b^{-1} = b^{k-j-1} \in H$. If $b = e \in H$, then its inverse (itself) is obviously also in H.

Example of a finite subgroup:

Consider $\{1, i, -1, -i\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{\times}$. By the finite subgroup test, it suffices to show that $\{1, i, -1, -i\}$ is closed under multiplication to prove that it is a subgroup. This can be done by brute force.

Week 2

Cyclic Subgroups

Definition of a cyclic group:

A group G is called **cyclic** if there is an element $a \in G$ such that $G = \{a^j : j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. a is called a **generator** of G. We indicate that G is a cyclic group generated by a with the notation $G = \langle a \rangle$.

Theorem 2.1

Suppose $a \in G$. Then $\langle a \rangle$ is a subgroup of G.

Proof. Suppose $a^m, a^n \in \langle a \rangle$ where $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $a^m a^n = a^{m+n} \in \langle a \rangle$ since $m+n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Also $a^{-m} \in \langle a \rangle$ for all m since $-m \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $a^m a^{-m} = a^0 = e = a^0 = a^{-m} a^m$. By the 2-step subgroup test $\langle a \rangle$ is a subgroup.

Definition of a cyclic subgroup:

The subgroup $\langle a \rangle \subseteq G$ is called the **cyclic subgroup** generated by $a \in G$.

Example of generators:

Take $G = \mathbb{Z}_6 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ together with addition mod 6. $\mathbb{Z}_6 = <1 > \text{since } n(1) = n \mod 6$. Note that we also have $\mathbb{Z}_6 = <5 >$.

Remark: In general, \mathbb{Z}_n is cyclic and generated by <-1>. All finite cyclic are isomorphic to Z_n for some n.

Remark: For $a \in G$, $< a > = < a^{-1} >$.

Example of the integers:

Take $G = \mathbb{Z}$.

Remark: Infinite cyclic groups are all isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} .

Definition of the centre of a group:

The **centre** of G is the subset

$$Z(G) = \{ x \in G : xa = ax \forall a \in G \}$$

i.e., the elements that commute with everything in G.

Theorem 2.2

Z(G) is a subgroup of G.

Proof. Suppose $x,y\in Z(G)$ and $a\in G$. Then (xy)a=x(ya)=xay=axy=a(xy). Therefore $xy\in Z(G)$. Moreover, $xa=ax\implies x^{-1}xa=x^{-1}ax\implies a=x^{-1}ax\implies ax^{-1}=x^{-1}axx^{-1}\implies ax^{-1}=x^{-1}a\implies x^{-1}\in Z(G)$. By the 2-step subgroup test, Z(G) is a subgroup of G.

Remark: 1. G is abelian $\iff Z(G) = G$

- 2. Z(G) is abelian (even when G is not)
- 3. $Z(D_3) = \{e\}$ (brute force)
- 4. $x \in Z(G) \iff xax^{-1} = a$ for all $a \in G \iff axa^{-1} = x$ for all $a \in G$

Example of a non-trivial center:

$$Z(GL(2,\mathbb{R})) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix} : a \in \mathbb{R}^{\times} \right\}$$

Definition of the centralizer:

Fix $b \in G$. The **centralizer** of b in G is

$$\begin{split} C_G(b) &= C(b) = \left\{ a \in G : ab = ba \right\} \\ &= \left\{ a \in G : aba^{-1} = b \right\} \end{split}$$

Theorem 2.3

For any $b \in G$, $C_G(b)$ is a subgroup.

Proof. Subgroup test.

Remark: 1. $C_G(e) = G$

- 2. $C_G(b) = G \iff b \in Z(G)$
- 3. $e \in C_G(b)$, $\langle b \rangle \subseteq C_G(b)$

Example of a centralizer:

 $C_{GL(2,\mathbb{R})}\left(\begin{bmatrix}1&0\\0&-1\end{bmatrix}\right) = \left\{\begin{bmatrix}a&0\\0&b\end{bmatrix} : a,b \in \mathbb{R}^{\times}\right\}$

Recall: G is cyclic if $G = \langle a \rangle = \{a^j : j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ for some $a \in G$.

Theorem 2.4

Suppose $a \in G$. Then

- 1. If $|a| = \infty$, then $a^k = a^j \iff j = k$
- 2. If |a| = n, then $a^k = a^j \iff n$ divides k j
- *Proof.* 1. Suppose $|a| = \infty$. This means $a^n \neq e$ for any $n \geq 1$. Suppose now $a^k = a^j$ with $k \geq j$. Then $a^k a^{-j} = aja^{-j} = e \implies a^{k-j}$ for $k-j \geq 0$. Since $a^n \neq e \forall n \geq 1$, we have $k-j=0 \implies k=j$.
 - 2. Suppose |a|=n. This means $a^n=e$ and n is the least positive number satisfying this equation. Suppose $a^k=a^j$ with $k\geq j$. Then $a^{k-j}=e$ where $k-j\geq 0$. By definition of $n,\,n\leq k-j$. By the division algorithm, k-j=qn+r where $q,r\in\mathbb{Z}$ are unique and $0\leq r\leq n-1$.

 $e = a^{k-j} = a^{qn+r} = a^{qn}a^r = (a^n)^q a^r = e^q a^r = ea^r = a^r$, so r = 0 by the minimality of n, and so $k - j = qn \implies \frac{k-j}{n} = q \in Z \implies n$ divides k - j.

Conversely if qn = k - j, then $a^{k-j} = (a^n)^q = e^q = e \implies a^k = a^j$.

Remark: In part 2., n divides $k-j \iff (k-j) \mod n = 0 \iff k \mod n = j \mod n$

Corollary 2.5

Suppose |a| n. Then $a^k = e$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z} \iff$ k is a multiple of |a|

Proof. Suppose $a^k = e$. Then $a^k = a^0$, so n divides k - 0 = k.

Corollary 2.6

Suppose $a \in G$. Then

- 1. If |a| = n then $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a^1, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$ and $|\langle a \rangle| = |a|$.
- 2. If $|a| = \infty$, then $\langle a \rangle$ is infinite and $|\langle a \rangle| = |a| = \infty$

Proof. Didn't take notes for this one.

Corollary 2.7

Suppose G is a finite group and $a, b \in G$. Then

- 1. |a|, |b| are finite
- 2. If ab = ba then |ab| divides |a||b|

Proof. 1. Suppose by way of contradiction that |a| is infinite. Then $< a > \subseteq G$ is infinite. But G is finite so $|< a >| \le |G|$ is a contradiction.

2.
$$(ab)^{|a||b|} = a^{|a||b|}b^{|a||b|} = (a^{|a|})^{|b|}(b^{|b|})^{|a|} = e^{|b|}e^{|a|} = e$$

2 examples omitted. Sorry, I'm prepping for my tutorial later!

Theorem 2.8

Suppose $a \in G$ and |a| = n. Then for any $k \ge 1$, $|a| < a^k| = a^{\gcd(n,k)} > and |a^k| = \frac{n}{\gcd(n,k)}$

Theorem 2.9 Fundamental Theorem of Cyclic Groups

Suppose $G = \langle a \rangle$ is cyclic and |G| = n. Then

- 1. Every subgroup of H is cyclic and k = |H| divides n = |G|, i.e., k is a divisor of n
- 2. For every divisor k of n, there is a unique subgroup of G of order k and it is equal to $< a^{\frac{n}{k}} >$
- Proof. 1. Suppose H is a subgroup of G and $H \neq < e >$. Let $m \ge 1$ be the least power of a such that $a^m \in H$. Since H is closed under multiplication and inversion, $< a^m > \subseteq H$. Suppose $a^j \in H$. By the division algorithm, j = qm + r with $0 \le r \le m \implies a^j = (a^m)^q a^r \implies a^j (a^m)^{-q} = a^r$, so since $a^j, (a^m)^{-q} \in H$, $a^r \in H \implies r = 0$ by the minimality of m.
 - 2. Suppose k divides n, i.e. $\frac{n}{k}$ is an integer. Recall that $\left| < a^{\frac{n}{k}} > \right| = \left| a^{\frac{n}{k}} \right| = k$. It follows that $\left| < a^{\frac{n}{k}} > \right| = k$.

Suppose $H \subseteq \langle a \rangle$ is a subgroup and |H| = k. By part 1, $H = a^m$ for some $m \geq 1$. By Theorem 2.8, $k = |H| = |\langle a^m \rangle| = |a^m| = \frac{n}{\gcd(m,n)} \implies \gcd(m,n) = \frac{n}{k}$.

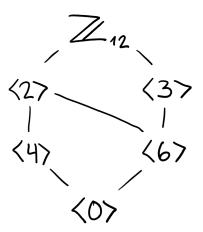
By Theorem 2.8 again, $H=< a^m>=< a^{\gcd(m,n)}>=< a^{\frac{n}{k}}>$.

Example of the subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_{12} :

The divisors of n = 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12

- k = 1: < 0 >
- k = 2: $< 6 >= {0, 6}$
- k = 3: $< 4 >= {0, 4, 8}$
- k = 4: $< 3 >= {0, 3, 6, 9}$
- k = 6: $\langle 2 \rangle = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$
- k = 12: $\mathbb{Z}_{12} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$

Note: The lattice of subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_{12} illustrates the containment relationships.



Remark: In \mathbb{Z}_n , clearly $< m > \subseteq < k > \iff m \in < k > \iff ka = m \iff k$ divides m.

Example of subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_p :

Consider \mathbb{Z}_p where p is prime. The only subgroup of \mathbb{Z}_p is < 0 >.

Week 3

Permutation Groups (Symmetric Groups)

Definition of the Euler ϕ -function:

The Euler ϕ -function is defined for every positive integer $d \geq 1$ by

$$\phi\left(d\right) = \left\{1 \text{ if } d = 1\right\}$$

Definition of:

Suppose $A \neq \phi$ is a set. A **permutation** of A is a bijection $\beta: A \to A$ (1-1, onto). The **permutation group** (**symmetric group**) of A is the set of permutations of A under composition.

Recall some facts about functions: Let S_A be the symmetric group of $A \neq \phi$.

If $\alpha, \beta \in S_A$ then $\alpha \circ \beta(a) = \alpha(\beta(a))$ for all $a \in A$.

From MATH1800 composition of 1-1 and onto functions is again 1-1 and onto, i.e., $\alpha \circ \beta \in S_A$.

From MATH1800 $(\alpha \circ \beta) \circ \gamma = \alpha \circ (\beta \circ \gamma)$ for all $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in S_A$. α permutation $\iff \alpha$ is invertible under composition.s

Remark: Define $e \in S_A$ by e(a) = a for all $a \in A$. Clearly $e \circ \alpha(a) = e(\alpha(a)) = \alpha(a)$ for all $a \in A \implies e \circ a = a$. We see that S_A truly is a group.

Example of:

Take $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$. What are the permutations in $S_3 = S_A$?

- $e \in S_3$: e(1) = 1, e(2) = 2, e(3) = 3.
- $\beta \in S_3$ where $\beta(1) = 2, \beta(2) = 3, \beta(3) = 1$.

Let's rewrite β as follows: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbb{R}$.

In general for any $\alpha \in S_3$, we may rewrite it as $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \alpha(1) & \alpha(2) & \alpha(3) \end{bmatrix} = \mathbb{R}$.

The number of permutations is given by the number of choices. This is $3! = 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$. We just proved that $|S_3| = 3! = 6$.

Similar reasoning tells us that $|S_n| = n!$ for every $n \ge 1$.

Question

Paul Mezo said we "know everything" about linear algebra. What does that mean?

Answer

There are no unsolved problems in finite linear algebra.

3.1 Cycle Notation

Consider S_3 and $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in S_3$. We rewrite this permutation as follows: (123).

Notice that $\alpha = (123) \neq (132) = \beta$, but they are both 3-cycles.

Also, $\gamma=(12)$ is the permutation such that $\gamma(1)=2, \gamma(2)=1, \gamma(3)=3.$ It's a 2-cycle.

We omit 1-cycles.

The six permutations in S_3 in cycle notation are e, (12), (13), (23), (123), (132).

Example of cycles of S_4 :

Consider S_4 . $|S_4| = 24 = 4!$.

- e,
- (12), (13), (14), (23), (24), (34)
- (123), (134), ...
- (1234), (1243), ...
- (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)

Definition of disjoint cycles:

Two cycles $(a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m), (b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_k) \in S_n$ are **disjoint** if $a_j \neq b_l$ for any j, l. Their product can be written equally in either order.

Composition of permutations is interpreted as products of cycles as follows:

Example of compositions in S_7 : • (623)(12) = (1362)

• (12)(347)(23) = (24731)