

# Algebra Definition Theorem List

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# Chapter 1

## Group Theory I

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter II.

**Proposition 1.1.** Let  $G$  be a group, for all  $a, g, h \in G$ , if

$$ga = ha$$

then  $g = h$ .

**Proposition 1.2.** Let  $g \in G$  have order  $n$ , then

$$n \mid |G|$$

**Corollary 1.1.** If  $g$  is an element of finite order, and let  $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$g^N = e \iff N \text{ is a multiple of } |g|$$

**Proposition 1.3.** Let  $g \in G$  be of finite order, then  $g^m$  also has finite order, for all  $m \geq 0$ , and

$$|g^m| = \frac{\text{lcm}(m, |g|)}{m} = \frac{|g|}{\text{gcd}(m, |g|)}$$

**Proposition 1.4.** If  $gh = hg$ , then  $|gh|$  divides  $\text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$ .

**Definition 1.1 (Dihedral Group).** Let  $D_{2n}$  denote the group of symmetries of a  $n$ -sided polygon, consisting of  $n$  rotations and  $n$  reflections about lines through the origin and a vertex or a midpoint of a side.

**Proposition 1.5.** Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$|m| = \frac{n}{\text{gcd}(n, m)}$$

**Corollary 1.2.** The element  $m \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  generates  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  if and only if  $\text{gcd}(m, n) = 1$ .

**Definition 1.2** (Multiplicative  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$ ). The multiplicative group of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is

$$(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times = \{m \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} : \gcd(m, n) = 1\}$$

**Proposition 1.6.** Let  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism, and let  $g \in G$  be an element of finite order, then  $|\varphi(g)|$  divides  $|g|$ .

For example, there is no nontrivial homomorphism from  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 1.7.** There is an isomorphism between  $D_6$  and  $S_3$ .

**Proposition 1.8.** Let  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$  be an isomorphism, for all  $g \in G$ ,  $|\varphi(g)| = |g|$ , and  $G$  is commutative if and only if  $H$  is commutative.

**Proposition 1.9.** If  $H$  is commutative, then  $\text{Hom}(G, H)$  is a group.

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $A = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , then the free abelian group on  $A$  is

$$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}^{\oplus n}$$

**Proposition 1.10.** Let  $\{H_\alpha\}$  be any family of subgroups of  $G$ , then

$$\bigcap_{\alpha} H_{\alpha}$$

is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**Proposition 1.11.** If  $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  is a group homomorphism, then if  $H_2 \subset G_2$  is a subgroup, then

$$\varphi^{-1}(H_2)$$

is a subgroup of  $G_1$ .

**Proposition 1.12.** Let  $H \subset \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  be a subgroup, then  $H$  is generated by some  $m$  where  $m$  divides  $n$ .

**Proposition 1.13.** If  $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  is a homomorphism, then  $\ker(\varphi)$  is a normal subgroup.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  be a surjective homomorphism, then

$$G_2 \cong \frac{G_1}{\ker \varphi}$$

**Proposition 1.14.** Let  $H_1, H_2$  be normal subgroups of  $G_1, G_2$ , then  $H_1 \times H_2$  are normal subgroups of  $G_1 \times G_2$ , then

$$\frac{G_1 \times G_2}{H_1 \times H_2} \cong \frac{G_1}{H_1} \times \frac{G_2}{H_2}$$

For example,

$$\frac{\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}}{\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}} = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$

**Proposition 1.15.** Let  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ , then every subgroup  $K$  containing  $H$ ,  $K/H$  can be identified with a subgroup of  $G/H$ .

**Proposition 1.16.** Let  $H$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ , and  $N$  be a subgroup of  $G$  containing  $H$ , then  $N/H$  is normal in  $G/H$  if and only if  $N$  is normal in  $G$ , in this case

$$\frac{G/H}{N/H} = \frac{G}{N}$$

**Proposition 1.17.** Let  $H, K$  be subgroups of  $G$ , and if  $H$  is normal, then  $HK$  is a subgroup of  $G$  and  $H$  is normal in  $HK$ . Moreover,  $H \cap K$  is normal in  $K$ , and

$$\frac{HK}{H} \cong \frac{K}{H \cap K}$$

**Proposition 1.18.** Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ , then for all  $g \in G$ , the function  $H \rightarrow gH$  such that

$$h \mapsto gh$$

is a bijection.

**Theorem 1.2 (Lagrange).** If  $G$  is a finite group, and  $H \subset G$  is a subgroup, then

$$|G| = [G : H] \cdot |H|$$

In particular,  $|H|$  divides  $|G|$ .

**Theorem 1.3 (Fermat's Little Theorem).** Let  $p$  be a prime integer, and  $a$  be any integer, then

$$a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$$

**Proposition 1.19.** Any group  $G$  acts on itself by left/right multiplications, and acts on the cosets  $G/H$ :

$$\varphi : g \mapsto (aH \mapsto gaH)$$

**Definition 1.4 (orbit).** The orbit of  $a \in A$  of a group action by  $G$  is

$$O(a) = \{g \cdot a : g \in G\}$$

The stabilizer of  $a$  is the following

$$\text{Stab}_G(a) = \{g \in G : g \cdot a = a\}$$

**Proposition 1.20.** The orbits of an action form a partition on the set  $A$ , and  $G$  acts transitively on each orbit.

**Definition 1.5 (transitive action, faithful action).** An action of  $G$  on  $A$  is transitive if for all  $a, b \in A$ , there exists  $g \in G$  such that

$$g \cdot a = b$$

In other words, the orbit of any element  $a \in A$  is the entire set.

An action is faithful if for any  $g \in G$ ,

$$g \cdot a = a \text{ for all } a$$

implies that  $g = e$ .

**Proposition 1.21.** Every transitive action of  $G$  on a set  $A$  is isomorphic to multiplication of  $G$  on  $G/H$ , where  $H = \text{Stab}(a)$  for any  $a \in A$ .

**Proposition 1.22.** If  $O(a)$  is an orbit of the action of a finite group  $G$ , then  $O(a)$  is a finite and  $|O|$  divides  $|G|$ . Moreover,

$$|G| = |O(a)| \cdot |\text{Stab}_G(a)|$$

For example, there is no transitive action of  $S_3$  on the set of 5 elements.

## Chapter 2

# Group Theory II

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter IV.

**Proposition 2.1 (class formula).** Let  $S$  be a finite set, and  $G$  act on  $S$ , then

$$|S| = |Z| + \sum_{a \in A} [G : \text{Stab}(a)] = |Z| + \sum_{a \in A} |O_a|$$

where  $Z = \{a \in S : g \cdot a = a \text{ for all } g\}$ , i.e., the fixed elements, and  $A \subset S$  contains exactly one element from each nontrivial orbit of the action.

In other words,  $|S|$  is the sum of the number of trivial orbits and each nontrivial orbit.

**Proposition 2.2.** Let  $G$  be a  $p$ -group that acts on a finite set  $S$ , then let  $Z$  be fixed elements of this action, then

$$|S| \equiv |Z| \pmod{p}$$

**Proposition 2.3.** Let  $G$  be finite, and if  $G/Z(G)$  is cyclic, then  $G$  is abelian.

**Definition 2.1 (centralizer, conjugacy class).** The centralizer  $Z_G(g)$  where  $g \in G$  is its stabilizer under conjugation:

$$Z_G(g) = \{h \in G : hgh^{-1} = g\}$$

The conjugacy class of  $g \in G$  is the orbit  $[g]$  of the conjugation action.

**Proposition 2.4 (Class formula).** Let  $G$  be finite, then

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{[a] \in A} |[a]|$$

where  $A$  contains one representative for each nontrivial conjugacy class.

**Corollary 2.1.** Let  $G$  be a nontrivial  $p$ -group, then  $G$  has a nontrivial center.

**Proposition 2.5.** The only possibility for the class formula of a nonabelian group of order 6 is

$$6 = 1 + 2 + 3$$

The center must be trivial if  $G$  is nonabelian.

**Definition 2.2 (normalizer).** Let  $A \subset G$  be a subset. The normalizer  $N_G(A)$  of  $A$  is

$$\text{Stab}_G(A) = \{g : gAg^{-1} = A\}$$

The centralizer of  $A$  is the subgroup  $Z_G(A) \subset N_G(A)$  fixing each  $a \in A$ :

$$Z_G(A) = \{g : gag^{-1} = a \text{ for all } a \in A\}$$

If  $H$  is subgroup of  $G$ , every conjugate  $gHg^{-1}$  is also a subgroup of  $G$ , and all conjugate groups have the same order.

**Proposition 2.6 (\*).**  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  if and only if  $N_G(H) = G$ . More generally, the normalizer  $N_G(H)$  for any subgroup  $H$  is the largest subgroup of  $G$  in which  $H$  is normal.

**Proposition 2.7 (\*).** Let  $H \subset G$  be a subgroup, then the number of subgroups conjugate to  $H$  is equal to  $[G : N_G(H)]$ .

**Corollary 2.2.** If  $[G : H]$  is finite, then the number of subgroups conjugate to  $H$  is finite, and

$$[G : H] = [G : N_G(H)] \cdot [N_G(H) : H]$$

In other words, the number of subgroups conjugate to  $H$  divides the index  $[G : H]$ .

**Theorem 2.1 (Cauchy's Theorem).** Let  $G$  be a finite group, and let  $p$  be a prime divisor of  $|G|$ , then  $G$  contains an element of order  $p$ .

Moreover, let  $N$  be the number of cyclic subgroups of order  $p$ , then

$$N \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

**Definition 2.3 (simple).** A group is simple if it is nontrivial and its only normal subgroups are  $\{e\}$  and  $G$  (has no nontrivial proper subgroup).

**Definition 2.4 ( $p$ -Sylow subgroups).** Let  $p$  be prime, a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of a finite group  $G$  is a subgroup of order  $p^r$ , where  $|G| = p^r m$ ,  $\gcd(p, m) = 1$ .

**Theorem 2.2 (Sylow I).** Every finite group contains a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup for all prime  $p$ . If  $p^k$  divides  $|G|$ , then  $G$  has a subgroup of order  $p^k$ .

**Theorem 2.3 (Sylow II).** Let  $G$  be finite, and  $P$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup, let  $H \subset G$  be a  $p$ -group, then  $H$  is contained in a conjugate of  $P$ . If  $P_1, P_2$  are both  $p$ -Sylow subgroups, then they are conjugates to each other.



**Theorem 2.4 (Sylow III).** Let  $|G| = p^r m$ , and  $\gcd(p, m) = 1$ , then the number of  $p$ -Sylow subgroups is

$$n_p \mid m$$

and

$$n_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

**Proposition 2.8.** Let  $G$  be a group of order  $mp^r$ , where  $p$  is prime and  $1 < m < p$ , then  $G$  is not simple.

**Proposition 2.9 (\*).** Let  $p < q$  be primes, let  $G$  has order  $pq$ , if  $p \nmid (q - 1)$ , then  $G$  is cyclic.

*Proof.* If  $G$  is abelian, use elements of orders  $p, q$ . If  $G$  not necessarily abelian, then use the conjugation action.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.10 (\*).** Let  $q$  be an odd prime, and  $G$  be a noncommutative group of order  $2q$ , then

$$G \cong D_{2q}$$

(claim 2.17 should know this proof).

**Definition 2.5 (commutator subgroup).** Let  $G$  be a group, the commutator subgroup of  $G$  is the subgroup **generated** by all elements

$$ghg^{-1}h^{-1}$$

**Proposition 2.11.** Let  $[G, G]$  be the commutator subgroup of  $G$ , then  $[G, G]$  is normal in  $G$ , and the quotient, also called the abelianization of  $G$ ,

$$G^{\text{ab}} = \frac{G}{[G, G]}$$

is commutative.

If  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ , where  $H$  is commutative, then

$$[G, G] \subset \ker(\varphi)$$

**Definition 2.6.** A group  $G$  is solvable, if there exists a sequence such that

$$\{e\} = G_0 \subset \cdots \subset G_k = G$$

where  $G_i$  is normal in  $G_{i+1}$ , and  $G_{i+1}/G_i$  is abelian, or equivalently, cyclic.

**Proposition 2.12.** All  $p$ -groups are solvable!

**Proposition 2.13.** Let  $N$  be normal in  $G$ , then  $G$  is solvable if and only if  $N, G/N$  are solvable.

**Proposition 2.14.** Disjoint cycles commute. For every  $\sigma \in S_n$ ,  $\sigma$  can be written as disjoint nontrivial cycles, unique up to rearranging.

**Proposition 2.15.** Two elements in  $S_n$  are conjugate in  $S_n$  if and only if they have the same type. Hence the number of conjugacy classes is the number of partitions of  $n$  as a sum.

**Proposition 2.16.** Normal subgroups are unions of conjugacy classes.

One can use this fact to show that there is no normal subgroup of order 30 in  $S_5$ .

**Definition 2.7 (Even permutation).** Let  $\sigma \in S_n$ , then  $\sigma$  is even if

$$\prod_{i < j} (x_{\sigma(i)} - x_{\sigma(j)}) = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j)$$

**Definition 2.8.** The alternating group  $A_n$  consists of even permutations of  $\sigma \in S_n$ , and

$$[S_n : A_n] = 2$$

**Proposition 2.17.** Let  $\sigma \in A_n$ , where  $n \geq 2$ , then the conjugacy class of  $\sigma$  in  $S_n$  splits into two conjugacy classes in  $A_n$  precisely if the type of  $\sigma$  consists of distinct odd numbers.

For example, the 5-cycle of  $S_5$  splits into 2 conjugacy classes in  $A_5$ .

**Proposition 2.18.** The group  $A_5$  is a simple noncommutative group of order 60

*Proof.* Any nontrivial normal subgroup consists of nontrivial conjugacy classes and  $\{e\}$ , the conjugacy classes of  $A_5$  has the following size:

$$1, 15, 20, 12, 12$$

Thus any subgroup of  $G$ , i.e., order that divides 60 cannot be written as a sum of the numbers above.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.19.** The alternating group is generated by 3-cycles.

**Proposition 2.20.** Let  $n \geq 5$ , if a normal subgroup of  $A_n$  contains a 3-cycle, then it contains all 3-cycles.

*Proof.* It suffices to note that the 3 cycles form a conjugacy class that doesn't split from  $S_n$  to  $A_n$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** The alternating group  $A_n$  is simple for  $n \geq 5$ .

As a corollary,  $S_n$  is not solvable for  $n \geq 5$ .

**Proposition 2.21.** Let  $N, H$  be normal subgroups of  $G$ , then

$$[N, H] \subset N \cap H$$

where  $[N, H]$  is the commutator of  $N, H$ .

**Proposition 2.22 (\*).** Let  $N, H$  be normal subgroups, and  $N \cap H = \{e\}$ , then  $N, H$  commute with each other.

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $N, H$  be normal subgroups of  $G$ , such that  $N \cap H = \{e\}$ , then

$$NH \cong N \times H$$

**Definition 2.9** (Short exact sequence). A short exact sequence of groups is a sequence:

$$1 \longrightarrow N \xrightarrow{\varphi} G \xrightarrow{\psi} H \longrightarrow 1$$

where  $\psi$  surjective and  $\varphi$  is injective, and  $N$  is normal in  $G$  which induces an isomorphism  $G/N \cong H$ .

A SES splits if  $H$  is identified with a subgroup of  $G$  such that

$$N \cap H = \{e\}$$

**Definition 2.10** (semidirect product). Let  $N$  be a normal subgroup, and let  $\theta : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$ , then define an operator  $\cdot_\theta$  as

$$(n_1, h_1) \cdot_\theta (n_2, h_2) = (n_1 \theta(h_1)(n_2), h_1 h_2)$$

The semidirect product of  $N \rtimes_\theta H$  is the group  $N \times H$  with operator  $\cdot_\theta$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** Let  $N, H$  be groups, and  $\theta : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$ , let  $G = N \rtimes_\theta H$ , then

1.  $G$  contains isomorphic copies of  $N, H$ .
2. The natural projection  $G \rightarrow H$  is surjective, with kernel  $N$ , thus  $N$  is normal in  $G$  and the sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow N \rtimes_\theta H \longrightarrow H \longrightarrow 1$$

is split exact.

3.  $N \cap H = \{e\}$ .
4.  $G = NH$ .
5. The homomorphism is conjugation:

$$\theta(h)(n) = hnh^{-1}$$

**Proposition 2.23** (\*). Let  $N, H$  be subgroups, and  $N$  is normal, suppose that  $N \cap H = \{e\}$ , and  $G = NH$ , then let  $\theta : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$  be  $\theta \mapsto \theta_h$ , and

$$\theta_h(n) = hnh^{-1}$$

Then

$$G \cong N \rtimes_\theta H$$

(Recall that the operation defined on  $N \rtimes_\theta H$  is  $(n_1, h_1) \cdot (n_2, h_2) = (n_1 \theta_{h_1}(n_2), h_1 h_2)$ ).

**Proposition 2.24.** Let  $G$  be abelian, let  $H, K$  be subgroups such that  $|H|, |K|$  are relatively prime, then

$$H + K \cong H \oplus K$$

*Proof.* Lagrange:  $N \cap H = \{e\}$ . □

**Proposition 2.25.** Every finite abelian group is a direct sum of its nontrivial Sylow subgroups.

**Proposition 2.26.** Let  $p$  be prime, and  $r \geq 1$ , let  $G$  be a noncyclic abelian group of order  $p^{r+1}$ , then let  $g \in G$  be an element of order  $p^r$ , then there exists an element  $h \in G$  such that  $h \notin \langle g \rangle$ , such that  $|h| = p$ .

If  $G$  is finite and abelian, then  $G$  is a direct sum of cyclic groups, which may be assumed to be cyclic  $p$ -groups.

**Theorem 2.8.** Let  $G$  be finite nontrivial abelian group, then there exists prime integers  $p_1, \dots, p_r$ , and positive integers  $n_{i(j)}$  such that

$$G = \bigoplus_{i,j} \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{p_i^{n_{i(j)}} \mathbb{Z}}$$

There exists positive integers  $1 < d_1 \mid \dots \mid d_s$  such that  $|G| = d_1 \dots d_s$ , and

$$G \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{d_1 \mathbb{Z}} \oplus \dots \oplus \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{d_s \mathbb{Z}}$$

**Theorem 2.9.** Let  $F$  be a field, and  $G$  be a finite subgroup of the multiplicative group  $(F^\times, \cdot)$ , then  $G$  is cyclic.

*Proof.* Hard proof. Don't torture yourself. □

## Chapter 3

# Ring Theory

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter III.

**Definition 3.1 (zero-divisor).** An element  $a \in R$  is a (left) zero-divisor if there exists  $b \neq 0$  such that

$$ab = 0$$

**Proposition 3.1.** In a ring  $R$ ,  $a \in R$  is not a left zero-divisor if and only if the left multiplication by  $a$  is injective.

**Definition 3.2 (integral domain).** An ID is a nonzero commutative ring such that for all  $a, b \in R$ ,

$$ab = 0$$

implies  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ . In other words, IDs are commutative rings without zero divisors.

**Proposition 3.2.** In a ring  $R$ :

1.  $u$  is left unit iff the left multiplication by  $u$  is surjective.
2. If  $u$  is a left unit, then the right multiplication by  $u$  is injective, i.e.,  $u$  is not a right zero-divisor.

Notice that in a commutative ring, this means  $u$  is a unit iff multiplication by  $u$  is bijective.

**Definition 3.3 (division ring).** A division ring is a ring in which every nonzero element is a unit.  
A field is a nonzero commutative ring in which every nonzero element is a unit.

**Proposition 3.3.** Assume  $R$  is a finite commutative ring, then  $R$  is an integral domain if and only if  $R$  is a field.

**Proposition 3.4.**  $\text{End}_{\text{Ab}}(\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $I$  be a two-sided ideal of a ring  $R$ . Then for every ring homomorphism  $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$  such that  $I \subset \ker \varphi$  there exists a unique ring homomorphism  $\tilde{\varphi} : R/I \rightarrow S$  so that the diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & S \\ \pi \downarrow & \nearrow \tilde{\varphi} & \\ R/I & & \end{array}$$

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$  be a surjective ring homomorphism, then

$$S \cong \frac{R}{\ker(\varphi)}$$

**Proposition 3.5.** Let  $I$  be an ideal of a ring  $R$ , and let  $J$  be an ideal of  $R$  containing  $I$ , then  $J/I$  is an ideal of  $R/I$ , and

$$\frac{R/I}{J/I} = \frac{R}{J}$$

**Definition 3.4 (Noetherian).** A commutative ring  $R$  is Noetherian if every ideal of  $R$  is finitely generated. An ideal  $I$  is finitely generated if  $I = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$ , i.e., every element in  $I$  can be written as

$$r_1 a_1 + \dots + r_n a_n$$

for some  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in R$ .

**Definition 3.5.**  $I$  is a prime ideal if  $R/I$  is an integral domain, and is a maximal ideal if  $R/I$  is a field.

**Proposition 3.6.** Let  $I$  be an ideal of commutative  $R$ , if  $R/I$  is finite, then  $I$  is prime if and only if maximal.

**Proposition 3.7 (\*).** Let  $R$  be a PID, a nonzero ideal  $I$  is prime if and only if it is maximal.

*Proof.* Is simple proof, you just do it. □

**Definition 3.6 (module).** A  $R$ -module  $M$  is an abelian group with a ring action, satisfying:

1.  $r(m + n) = rm + rn$
2.  $(r + s)m = rm + sm$
3.  $(rs)m = r(sm)$
4.  $1m = m$ .

**Definition 3.7.** An  $R$ -algebra is a ring with a ring  $R$  action.

**Theorem 3.3.** Suppose  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M'$  be a surjective  $R$ -module homomorphism, then

$$M' \cong \frac{M}{\ker \varphi}$$

**Proposition 3.8.** Let  $N$  be a submodule of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , and let  $P$  be a submodule of  $M$  containing  $N$ . Then  $P/N$  is a submodule of  $M/N$ , and

$$\frac{M/N}{P/N} \cong \frac{M}{P}$$

**Proposition 3.9.** Let  $N, P$  be submodules, then  $N + P$  is a submodule of  $M$ , and  $N \cap P$  is a submodule of  $P$ , and

$$\frac{N + P}{N} \cong \frac{P}{N \cap P}$$

**Proposition 3.10.** Let  $R$  be a PID, and  $F$  be a finitely generated free module over  $R$ , and let  $M \subset F$  be a submodule, then  $M$  is free.

**Definition 3.8.** Let  $R$  be an integral domain, the rank of  $M$  is the maximal number of linearly independent elements of  $M$ .

## Chapter 4

# Irreducibility and Factorization

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter V.

**Proposition 4.1.** Let  $R$  be commutative, and  $M$  be an  $R$ -module, then the following are equivalent:

1.  $M$  is Noetherian: every submodule of  $M$  is finitely generated.
2. Every ascending chain of submodules of  $M$  stabilizes: no infinite strict inclusions of submodules.
3. Every nonempty family of submodules has a maximal element with respect to inclusion.

**Proposition 4.2 (\*)**. Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, then  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is Noetherian. Let  $J$  be an ideal of the polynomial ring  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , then the ring

$$\frac{R[x_1, \dots, x_n]}{J}$$

is Noetherian, so is  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

**Proposition 4.3 (Hilbert's basis theorem)**. If  $R$  is Noetherian, then  $R[x]$  is also Noetherian.

**Definition 4.1 (prime, irreducible elements)**. Let  $R$  be an integral domain, an element  $a \in R$  is prime if the ideal  $(a)$  is prime, i.e.,  $a$  is not a unit and  $a \mid bc$  implies  $a \mid b$  or  $a \mid c$ . ( $a \mid b$  if  $b \in (a)$ .)

An element  $a \in R$  is irreducible if  $a$  is not a unit and

$$a = bc$$

implies  $b$  is a unit or  $c$  is a unit. Equivalently,  $a$  is irreducible if  $(a) \subset (b)$  implies  $(b) = (a)$  or  $(b) = (1) = R$ , i.e.,  $(a)$  is maximal in principal ideals.

**Proposition 4.4.** Let  $R$  be an integral domain, and let  $a \in R$  be a nonzero prime element, then  $a$  is irreducible.



**Proposition 4.5.** Let  $R$  be an integral domain, and let  $r$  be a nonzero, nonunit element of  $R$ . Assume that every ascending chain of principal ideals,

$$(r) \subset (r_1) \subset \dots$$

stabilizes. Then  $r$  has a factorization into irreducibles.

**Corollary 4.1.** Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, then factorizations exist in  $R$ .  
A non-Noetherian ring but factorization still exists:

$$\mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

**Proposition 4.6.** Let  $R$  be a UFD, and  $a, b, c \in R$  be nonzero, then

$$(a) \subset (b)$$

iff the multiset of irreducible factors of  $b$  is contained in that of  $a$ . Moreover, the irreducible factors of  $bc$  are the collection of irreducible factors of  $b$  and  $c$ .

**Proposition 4.7.** Let  $R$  be a UFD, let  $a, b$  be nonzero elements, then  $a, b$  have a greatest common divisor, i.e., the smallest ideal  $(d)$  such that  $(a, b) \subset (d)$ .

**Proposition 4.8 (\*).** In UFD,  $a$  is irreducible implies  $a$  is prime.

**Theorem 4.1 (\*).** An integral domain  $R$  is a UFD if and only if

1. The acc holds for principal ideals in  $R$ .
2. Every irreducible element of  $R$  is prime.

**Proposition 4.9.** If  $R$  is a PID, then it is a UFD. (Hence irreducibles are primes).  
( $\mathbb{Z}[x]$  is not a PID).

**Definition 4.2 (Euclidean domain).** A Euclidean valuation on an integral domain  $R$  is an valuation: for all  $a \in R$ , and all nonzero  $b \in R$ , there exists  $q, r$  such that

$$a = qb + r$$

with either  $r = 0$  or  $v(r) < v(b)$ . An integral domain is a ED if it admits a Euclidean valuation.

**Proposition 4.10.** ED is also PID.

**Definition 4.3 (\*Field of fractions).** Let  $R$  be an integral domain, then the field of fractions is

$$K(R) = \left\{ \frac{a}{r} : a, r \in R, r \neq 0 \right\}$$

**Definition 4.4.** (Assuming  $R$  is an integral domain). The field of rational functions with coefficients in  $R$  is the field of fractions of the ring  $R[x]$ , denoted as  $R(x)$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** Let  $R$  be a UFD, then  $R[x]$  is also a UFD.

**Proposition 4.11.** Let  $R$  be a UFD, and  $K$  be its field of fractions, let  $f \in R[x]$  be a nonconstant, irreducible polynomial, then  $f$  is irreducible as an element in  $K[x]$ .

**Definition 4.5.** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring, let  $f \in R[x]$ , then  $f$  is primitive if for all principal prime ideals  $p$ ,

$$f \notin pR[x]$$

where  $pR[x]$  is an ideal of  $R[x]$  of polynomials with coefficients from  $p$ .

**Proposition 4.12 (\*)**. Let  $R$  be a UFD,  $f$  is primitive if and only if  $\gcd(a_0, \dots, a_d) = 1$ .

**Definition 4.6.** Let  $R$  be a UFD. The content of a nonzero polynomial  $f \in R[x]$  denoted by

$$\text{cont}(f) = \gcd(a_0, \dots, a_n)$$

The principal ideal generated by  $(\text{cont}(f))$  is uniquely determined by  $f$ .

**Proposition 4.13 (Gauss's lemma)**. Let  $R$  be a UFD. Let  $f, g \in R[x]$ , then

$$(\text{cont}(fg)) = (\text{cont}(f))(\text{cont}(g))$$

**Proposition 4.14.** Let  $R$  be a UFD, and  $K$  be its field of fractions. Let  $f \in R[x]$  be nonconstant, then  $f$  is irreducible in  $R[x]$  if and only if it is irreducible in  $K[x]$  and  $\gcd(a_0, \dots, a_n) = 1$

**Proposition 4.15.** Let  $k$  be field,  $f \in k[x]$  of degree 2 or 3 is irreducible iff it has a root in  $k$ .

**Proposition 4.16.** Let  $R$  be a UFD,  $K$  its field of fractions. Let

$$f(x) = a_0 + \dots + a_n x^n \in R[x]$$

let  $c = \frac{p}{q} \in K$  be a root of  $f$ , then  $p \mid a_0$  and  $q \mid a_n$ . (Note  $p/q$  is written in the minimal form).

**Proposition 4.17.** Let  $k$  be a field,  $f(t) \in k[t]$ , be irreducible, then

$$F = \frac{k[t]}{(f(t))}$$

is a field.

**Definition 4.7.** A field is algebraically closed if all the irreducible polynomials in  $k[x]$  have degree 1.

**Proposition 4.18.** Every polynomial  $f \in R[x]$  of degree  $\geq 3$  is reducible.

**Proposition 4.19.** Let  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  be a polynomial such  $\gcd(a_0, \dots, a_n) = 1$  then let  $p$  be a prime integer. Assume  $f \pmod p$  has the same degree as  $f$  and is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ , then  $f$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 4.20 (Generalized Eisenstein).** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring, let  $p$  be a prime ideal in  $R$ , let  $f \in R[x]$ , assume that

1.  $a_n \notin p$ .
2.  $a_i \in p$ .
3.  $a_0 \notin p^2$ .

then  $f$  is not the product of polynomials with degree strictly less than  $\deg(f)$ .

**Theorem 4.3 (CRT).** Let  $I_1, \dots, I_k$  be ideals of  $R$  such that  $I_i + I_j = (1)$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Then

$$\frac{R}{I_1 \cap \dots \cap I_k} \cong \frac{R}{I_1} \times \dots \times \frac{R}{I_k}$$

(It uses if  $I_i + I_j = (1)$ , then  $I_1 \dots I_k = I_1 \cap \dots \cap I_k$ ).

**Corollary 4.2.** Let  $R$  be a PID, and let  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  be elements such that  $\gcd(a_i, a_j) = 1$ , let  $a = a_1 \dots a_k$ , then

$$\frac{R}{(a)} \cong \frac{R}{(a_1)} \times \dots \times \frac{R}{(a_k)}$$

**Proposition 4.21.** A positive integer prime  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  splits in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  iff it is the sum of two squares in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* Use norm. □

**Theorem 4.4 (Fermat).** A positive odd prime  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  is a sum of two squares iff  $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ .

# Chapter 5

## Linear Algebra I

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter VI.

**Proposition 5.1.** Any ring morphism from a field to a nonzero ring is injective.

**Definition 5.1 (finite field extension).** A field extension  $k \subset F$  is finite, of degree  $n$ , if  $F$  has finite dimension  $\dim F = n$  as a vector space over  $k$ .

**Definition 5.2 (simple extension).** A field extension  $k \subset F$  is simple if there exists an element  $\alpha \in F$  such that  $F = k(\alpha)$ .

For example, the extension  $\frac{K[t]}{(f(t))} = K(\alpha)$  for some  $f(\alpha) = 0$ .

**Proposition 5.2.** Let  $k \subset k(\alpha)$  be a simple extension, then consider the evaluation map

$$\varepsilon : f(t) \mapsto f(\alpha)$$

Then  $\varepsilon$  is not injective iff  $k(\alpha)$  is a finite extension, i.e., there exists a monic irreducible polynomial  $p$  such that

$$k(\alpha) = \frac{k[t]}{(p(t))}$$

**Definition 5.3.** Let  $k \subset F$  be an extension, then the group of automorphisms of this extension, denoted  $\text{Aut}_k(F)$  is the group of automorphisms  $\varphi : F \rightarrow F$  that fixes  $k$ .

**Corollary 5.1.** Let  $k \subset k(\alpha)$ , and  $p(x)$  be the minimal polynomial over  $k$ , then

$$|\text{Aut}_k(k(\alpha))| = \text{number of distinct roots of } p \text{ in } k(\alpha)$$

and

$$|\text{Aut}_k(k(\alpha))| \leq [k(\alpha) : k]$$

with equality if and only if  $p(x)$  factors over  $k(\alpha)$  as a product of distinct linear factors.

**Proposition 5.3.** Let  $k \subset F$  be finite, then it is also an algebraic extension, where for any  $\alpha \in F$ ,

$$[k(\alpha) : k] \leq [F : k]$$

**Proposition 5.4.** Let  $k \subset E \subset F$  be field extensions, then  $k \subset F$  is finite iff both  $E/k$  and  $F/E$  are finite, in this case

$$[F : k] = [F : E][E : k]$$

**Corollary 5.2.** Let  $k \subset F$  be finite, and  $E$  be an intermediate field, then both  $[E : k], [F : E]$  divide  $[F : k]$ .

**Definition 5.4.** A field ext  $k \subset F$  is finitely generated if there exists  $\{\alpha_i\} \subset F$  such that

$$F = k(\alpha_1) \dots (\alpha_n)$$

**Proposition 5.5.** Let  $k \subset k(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  be finitely generated, then  $k \subset F$  is algebraic implies that  $k \subset F$  is finite.

**Corollary 5.3.** Let  $k \subset F$  be a field extension, then

$$E = \{\alpha \in F : \alpha \text{ is algebraic over } k\}$$

is a field extension over  $k$ .

**Corollary 5.4.** Let  $k \subset E \subset F$ , then  $k \subset F$  is algebraic iff both  $k \subset E$  and  $E \subset F$  are algebraic.

**Definition 5.5.** Let  $f(x) \in k[x]$  be a polynomial of degree  $d$ , the splitting field of  $f$  over  $k$

$$F = k(\alpha_1) \dots (\alpha_d)$$

generated by all roots of  $f$ , i.e., such that  $f$  splits into linear factors over  $F$ .

**Proposition 5.6.** Splitting field of  $f$  is unique up to isomorphisms, and

$$[F : k] \leq (\deg(f))!$$

**Definition 5.6.** A field extension  $k \subset F$  is normal if every irred polynomial  $f$  has a root in  $F$  iff  $f$  splits into product of linear factors over  $F$ .

**Proposition 5.7 (normal).** A field extension  $k \subset F$  is **finite and normal** iff  $F$  is the splitting field of some polynomial  $f \in k[x]$ .

**Definition 5.7.** Let  $k$  be a field,  $f \in k[x]$  is separable if it has no multiple factors over its splitting field.

**Proposition 5.8.** Let  $f \in k[x]$ , then  $f$  is separable iff  $f, f'$  are relatively prime. If it is inseparable, then  $f' = 0$ .

**Definition 5.8.** Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic  $p$ , the map from  $k \rightarrow k$  such that  $x \mapsto x^p$  is a homomorphism (Frobenius).

A field is perfect if  $\text{char}(k) = 0$  or the Frobenius map is surjective.

**Proposition 5.9.**  $k$  is perfect iff irred polynomial in  $k[x]$  are separable.

**Corollary 5.5.** Finite fields are perfect, i.e., irred polynomials are separable.

## 5.1 Finite fields

**Definition 5.9.** Let  $F$  be a finite field of characteristic  $p$ , then  $F$  is an extension of  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , i.e.,

$$F = \mathbb{F}_{p^d}$$

for some  $d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

**Theorem 5.1.** The polynomial

$$x^{p^d} - x$$

is separable over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , and the splitting field of  $x^{p^d} - x$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  is a field with  $p^d$  elements.

Conversely, let  $F$  be a field with  $p^d$  elements, then  $F$  is the splitting field of

$$x^{p^d} - x$$

over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .

**Corollary 5.6.** For every  $p^d$  for some  $d$ , there exists only one finite field of order  $p^d$  up to isomorphisms. This is the Galois field of order  $p^d$ .

**Corollary 5.7.**  $\mathbb{F}_{p^d} \subset \mathbb{F}_{p^e}$  iff  $d \mid e$ .

**Corollary 5.8.** Let  $F = \mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ , then

$$x^{q^n} - x$$

factors over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  as irreducible polynomials of degree  $d$ , where  $d$  ranges over all divisors of  $n$ . These polynomials factor completely over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ .

**Theorem 5.2.**  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\mathbb{F}_{p^d})$  is cyclic, generated by the Frobenius isomorphism.

## 5.2 Cyclotomic

**Definition 5.10.** Polynomial

$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (x - \xi_n^i)$$

is called the  $n$ th cyclotomic polynomial.

**Proposition 5.10.** If  $n = p$  is prime, then

$$\Phi_p(x) = x^{p-1} + \cdots + x + 1 = \frac{x^p - 1}{x - 1}$$

For all positive integers  $n$ , we have

$$x^n - 1 = \prod_{1 \leq d|n} \Phi_d(x)$$

**Proposition 5.11.** For all positive  $n$ ,  $\Phi_n(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Definition 5.11.** The splitting field  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$  for  $x^n - 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  is the  $n$ th cyclotomic field.

**Proposition 5.12.**  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n))$  is isomorphic to the group  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$

**Proposition 5.13.** An algebraic extension  $k \subset F$  is simple iff the number of distinct intermediate fields  $k \subset E \subset F$  is finite.

**Theorem 5.3.** Every finite separable is simple.

One should draw diagrams

$$k - E - F$$

and

$$\text{Aut}_k(F) = \text{Aut}_E(F) = \{e\}$$

each extension (reversely) corresponds to a subgroup that fixes that extension in the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(F/k)$ .

**Theorem 5.4.** Let  $k \subset F$  be Galois, then  $k \subset E \subset F$ ,  $k \subset E$  is Galois iff  $\text{Aut}_E(F)$  is normal in  $\text{Gal}(F/k)$ , in this case,

$$\text{Gal}(E/k) \cong \frac{\text{Gal}(F/k)}{\text{Gal}(F/E)}$$

**Definition 5.12 (discriminant).** The discriminant of  $f$ , separable, irreducible is

$$D(f) = \Delta^2 f = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\alpha_i - \alpha_j)^2$$

**Proposition 5.14.** Let  $k$  be field of char not equal to 2, and  $f$  is separable, with discriminant  $D$ . Then the Galois group of  $f$  is contained in  $A_n$  iff  $D$  is a square in  $k$ .

(We note that  $\Delta$  is fixed by the Galois group  $G$  iff  $G \subset A_n$ )

**Proposition 5.15.** Let  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  be irred of degree  $p$ , assume that  $f$  has  $p - 2$  real roots and 2 complex roots, then the Galois group is  $S_p$ .

**Theorem 5.5.** Every finite abelian group is the Galois group of some extension  $F$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

More specifically, every finite abelian group  $G$  is the group of some intermediate field of the extension  $\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$  in a cyclotomic field.

*Proof.* Classification:

$$G \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{n_1\mathbb{Z}} \times \cdots \times \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{n_r\mathbb{Z}}$$

Choose distinct  $p_i$  such that  $p_i \equiv 1 \pmod{n_i}$ . Let  $n = p_1 \cdots p_r$ , by CRT

$$(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p_1\mathbb{Z})^\times \times \cdots \times (\mathbb{Z}/p_r\mathbb{Z})^\times$$

Then  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$  has a subgroup  $H$  such that

$$G \cong \frac{(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times}{H}$$

Since  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times \cong \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n))$ ,  $H$  corresponds to an intermediate field  $F$ , where

$$\mathbb{Q} \subset F \subset \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$$

$H$  is automatically normal, hence  $\mathbb{Q} \subset F$  is Galois and

$$\text{Gal}(F/\mathbb{Q}) = G$$

□



## Chapter 6

# Linear Algebra II

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter VIII.

## **Chapter 7**

# **Field Theory**

This corresponds to Aluffi Chapter VII.

## **Chapter 8**

# **Representation Theory of Finite Groups**

## **Chapter 9**

# **Semisimple Algebra**