

# Algebra

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## 1 Lecture 1 (Thu 15 Aug 2019)

Definition: A *group* is an ordered pair  $(G, \cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G)$  where  $G$  is a set and  $\cdot$  is a binary operation, which satisfies the following axioms:

1. Associativity:  $(g_1 g_2) g_3 = g_1 (g_2 g_3)$
2. Identity:  $\exists e \in G \ni ge = eg = g$
3. Inverses:  $g \in G \implies \exists h \in G \ni gh = gh = e$ .

Some examples of groups:

- $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$
- $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$
- $(\mathbb{Q}^\times, \times)$
- $(\mathbb{R}^\times, \times)$
- $(\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}), \times) = \{A \in \text{Mat}_n \ni \det(A) \neq 0\}$
- $(S_n, \circ)$

Definition: A subset  $S \subseteq G$  is a *subgroup* of  $G$  iff

1.  $s_1, s_2 \in S \implies s_1 s_2 \in S$
2.  $e \in S$
3.  $s \in S \implies s^{-1} \in S$

We denote such a subgroup  $S \leq G$ .

Examples:

- $(\mathbb{Z}, +) \leq (\mathbb{Q}, +)$
- $\text{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \leq \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R})$ , where  $\text{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \ni \det(A) = 1\}$

## 1.1 Cyclic Groups

Definition: A group  $G$  is cyclic iff  $G$  is generated by a single element.

Exercise: Show  $\langle g \rangle = \{g^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cong \bigcap \{H \leq G \mid g \in H\}$ .

Theorem: Let  $G$  be a cyclic group, so  $G = \langle g \rangle$ .

1. If  $|G| = \infty$ , then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}$ .
2. If  $|G| = n < \infty$ , then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ .

Definition: Let  $H \leq G$ , and define a *right coset of  $G$*  by  $aH = \{ah \mid h \in H\}$ . A similar definition can be made for *left cosets*.

Then  $aH = bH \iff b^{-1}a \in H$  and  $Ha = Hb \iff ab^{-1} \in H$ .

Some facts:

- Cosets partition  $G$ , i.e.  $b \notin H \implies aH \cap bH = \emptyset$ .
- $|H| = |aH| = |Ha|$  for all  $a \in G$ .

Theorem (Lagrange): If  $G$  is a finite group and  $H \leq G$ , then  $|H| \mid |G|$ .

Definition:  $N \leq G$  is *normal* iff  $gN = Ng$  for all  $g \in G$ , or equivalently  $gNg^{-1} \subseteq N$ . I denote this  $N \trianglelefteq G$ .

When  $N \trianglelefteq G$ , the set of left/right cosets of  $N$  themselves have a group structure. So we define  $G/N = \{gN \mid g \in G\}$  where  $(g_1N)(g_2N) = (g_1g_2)N$ .

Given  $H, K \leq G$ , define  $HK = \{hk \mid h \in H, k \in K\}$ . We have a general formula,

$$|HK| = \frac{|H||K|}{|H \cap K|}.$$

## 1.2 Homomorphisms

Let  $G, G'$  be groups, then  $\varphi : G \rightarrow G'$  is a *homomorphism* if  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ .

Examples:

- $\exp : (\mathbb{R}, +) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{>0}, \cdot)$  where  $\exp(a+b) = e^{a+b} = e^a e^b$ .
- $\det : (\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}), \times) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^\times, \times)$  where  $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B)$ .