

# Algebra

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## 1 Lecture 1 (Thu 15 Aug 2019)

**Definition 1.**  $\langle G, \cdot \rangle$  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:

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

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**Example 1.**  $\langle \{ \{ \{ \} \} \} \{ \{ \{ \} \} \} \{ \{ \{ \} \} \} \rangle$  -  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  -  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$  -  $(\mathbb{Q}^\times, \times)$  -  $(\mathbb{R}^\times, \times)$  -  
 $(\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}), \times) = \{A \in \text{Mat}_n \ni \det(A) \neq 0\}$  -  $(S_n, \circ)$

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**Definition 2.**  $\langle G, \cdot \rangle$  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.  $s \in S \implies s^{-1} \in S$

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

Examples of subgroups:

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

## 1.1 Cyclic Groups

**Definition 3.** A group  $G$  is **cyclic** iff  $G$  is generated by a single element.

**Exercise 1.** Show  $\langle g \rangle = \{g^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cong \bigcap \{H \leq G \mid g \in H\}$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let  $G$  be a cyclic group, so  $G \cong \langle g \rangle$ .

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

**Definition 4.** 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 2** (Lagrange). If  $G$  is a finite group and  $H \leq G$ , then  $|H| \mid |G|$ .

**Definition 5.** A subgroup  $N \leq G$  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

$$G/N = \{gN \mid g \in G\} \text{ where } (g_1N)(g_2N) = (g_1g_2)N.$$

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

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

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**Example 3.** Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group of order 4. Then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2^2$ , which are not isomorphic because every element in  $\mathbb{Z}_2^2$  has order 2 where  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  contains an element of order 4.

## 1.5 Fundamental Homomorphism Theorem

Let  $\varphi : G \rightarrow G'$  be a group homomorphism and define  $\ker \varphi = \{g \in G \mid \varphi(g) = e'\}$ .

### 1.5.1 The First Homomorphism Theorem

**Theorem 4.** There exists a map  $\varphi' : G/\ker \varphi \rightarrow G'$  such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & G' \\ \eta \downarrow & \nearrow \varphi' & \\ G/\ker \varphi & & \end{array}$$

That is,  $\varphi = \varphi' \circ \eta$ , and  $\varphi'$  is an isomorphism onto its image, so  $G/\ker \varphi = \text{im } \varphi$ . This map is given by  $\varphi'(g(\ker \varphi)) = \varphi(g)$ .

**Exercise 2.** Check that  $\varphi$  is well-defined.

### 1.5.2 The Second Theorem

**Theorem 5.** Let  $K, N \leq G$  where  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then

$$\frac{K}{N \cap K} \cong \frac{NK}{N}$$

*Proof.* Define a map  $K \xrightarrow{\varphi} NK/N$  by  $\varphi(k) = kN$ . You can show that  $\varphi$  is onto by looking at  $\ker \varphi$ ; note that  $kN = \varphi(k) = N \iff k \in N$ , and so  $\ker \varphi = N \cap K$ .  $\square$

## 2 Lecture 2