

# Algebra

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## 1 Lecture 1 (Thu 15 Aug 2019)

We'll be using Hungerford's Algebra text.

### 1.1 Definitions

The following definitions will be useful to know by heart:

- The order of a group
- Cartesian product
- Relations
- Equivalence relation
- Partition
- Binary operation
- Group
- Isomorphism
- Abelian group
- Cyclic group
- Subgroup

- Greatest common divisor
- Least common multiple
- Permutation
- Transposition
- Orbit
- Cycle
- The symmetric group  $S^n$
- The alternating group  $A_n$
- Even and odd permutations
- Cosets
- Index
- The direct product of groups
- Homomorphism
- Image of a function
- Inverse image of a function
- Kernel
- Normal subgroup
- Factor group
- Simple group

Here is a rough outline of the course:

- Group Theory
  - Groups acting on sets
  - Sylow theorems and applications
  - Classification
  - Free and free abelian groups
  - Solvable and simple groups
  - Normal series
- Galois Theory
  - Field extensions
  - Splitting fields
  - Separability
  - Finite fields
  - Cyclotomic extensions
  - Galois groups
  - Solvability by radicals
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## 1.2 Preliminaries

**Definition 1.** 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:  $g \in G \implies \exists h \in G \ni gh = gh = e$ .

**Example 1.**

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

**Definition 2.** 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 of subgroups:

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

### 1.3 Cyclic Groups

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

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

**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  $aH = \{ah \ni H \in H\}$ . 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  $H$ , i.e.  $b \notin H \implies aH \cap bH = \{e\}$ .
- $|H| = |aH| = |Ha|$  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

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

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

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

## 1.4 Homomorphisms

**Definition 6.** Let  $G, G'$  be groups, then  $\varphi : G \rightarrow G'$  is a **homomorphism** if  $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ .

**Example 2.** •  $\exp : (\mathbb{R}, +) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^{>0}, \cdot)$  where  $\exp(a + b) = e^{a+b} = e^a e^b = \exp(a) \exp(b)$ .

•  $\det : (\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{R}), \times) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^\times, \times)$  where  $\det(AB) = \det(A) \det(B)$ .

• Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\varphi : G \rightarrow G/N$  given by  $\varphi(g) = gN$ .

• Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$  where  $\varphi(g) = [g] = g \bmod n$  where  $\mathbb{Z}_n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

**Definition 7.** Let  $\varphi : G \rightarrow G'$ . Then  $\varphi$  is a **monomorphism** iff it is injective, an **epimorphism** iff it is surjective, and an **isomorphism** iff it is bijective.

## 1.5 Direct Products

Let  $G_1, G_2$  be groups, then define

$$G_1 \times G_2 = \{(g_1, g_2) \mid g_1 \in G_1, g_2 \in G_2\} \text{ where } (g_1, g_2)(h_1, h_2) = (g_1 h_1, g_2 h_2).$$

We have the formula  $|G_1 \times G_2| = |G_1| |G_2|$ .

## 1.6 Finitely Generated Abelian Groups

**Definition 8.** We say a group is **abelian** if  $G$  is commutative, i.e.  $g_1, g_2 \in G \implies g_1 g_2 = g_2 g_1$ .

**Definition 9.** A group is **finitely generated** if there exist  $\{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\} \subseteq G$  such that  $G = \langle g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n \rangle$ .

This generalizes the notion of a cyclic group, where we can simply intersect all of the subgroups that contain the  $g_i$  to define it.

We know what cyclic groups look like – they are all isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . So now we'd like a structure theorem for abelian finitely generated groups.

**Theorem 3.** Let  $G$  be a finitely generated abelian group. Then

$$G \cong \mathbb{Z}^r \times \prod_{i=1}^s \mathbb{Z}_{p_i^{\alpha_i}}$$

for some finite  $r, s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $p_i$  are (not necessarily distinct) primes.

**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.

## 1.7 Fundamental Homomorphism Theorem

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

### 1.7.1 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.

### 1.7.2 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