
ALGEBRA III NOTES

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I Groups

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In Algebra 3, we will study abstract algebraic structures. Chiefly among them, we have *groups*, which are useful in representing symmetries, *rings & fields*, which help us think about number systems, and *vector spaces & modules*, which encode physical space.

AXIOMS AND FIRST PROPERTIES

A *group* is a set G endowed with a binary composition $G \times G \rightarrow G$ such that the following axioms hold:

DEF 1.1

1. $\exists e \in G$, an identity element, such that $e * a = a * e = a \ \forall a \in G$.
2. $\forall a \in G, \exists a' \in G$ such that $a * a' = a' * a = e$.
3. $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c \ \forall a, b, c \in G$.

If $a * b = b * a \ \forall a, b \in G$, we call G *commutative*.

DEF 1.2

Why do we care about groups? If X is an object, we call a *symmetry* of X a function $X \rightarrow X$ which preserves the structure of the object.

e.g. a polygon, graphs, tilings, "crystal," "molecules," rings, vector spaces, metric spaces, manifolds

The collection of symmetries, $\text{Aut}(X) = \{f : X \rightarrow X\}$, we can structure as a group: let $*$ be composition, $e = \text{Id}$, and $f \in \text{Aut}(X)$ (note that, by axiom 2, these must be bijective).

A note on notation: for non-commutative groups, we write $a * b = ab$, $e = 1$ or $\mathbb{1}$, $a' = a^{-1}$, and $a^n = \underbrace{a \cdot \dots \cdot a}_{n \text{ times}}$. This is called *multiplicative notation*. For commutative rings, we write $a * b = a + b$, $e = 0$ or $\mathbb{0}$, $a' = -a$, and $na = \underbrace{a + \dots + a}_{n \text{ times}}$.

♠ Examples ♣

E.G. 1.1

1. If X is a set with no operations, $\text{Aut}(X)$ is the set of all bijections $f : X \rightarrow X$. One calls this the *permutation group*, or, if $|X| = n < \infty$, the *symmetric group*, and we write $\text{Aut}(X) = S_n$.
2. If V is a vector space over \mathbb{F} , $\text{Aut}(V) = \{T : V \rightarrow V\}$, the set of vector space isomorphism. If $\dim(V) = n$, recall that we associate V with \mathbb{F}^n , whose set of isomorphism is given by $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$, the collection of $n \times n$ invertible matrices. This is called the *linear group*.
3. If R is a ring, then $(R, +, \mathbb{0})$ is a commutative group. Furthermore, $(R^\times, \times, \mathbb{1})$ is a non-commutative group, where $R^\times := R \setminus \{\text{non-invertible elements of } R\}$.

4. If V is Euclidean space endowed with a dot product, where $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$, with $\dim(V) < \infty$, $\text{Aut}(V) = O(V)$ is called the *orthogonal group of V* . In particular, $O(V) = \{T : V \rightarrow V : T(u) \cdot T(v) = u \cdot v\}$.
5. If X is a geometric figure (e.g. a polygon), we write $\text{Aut}(X) = D_n$, where $|\text{Aut}(X)| = n$, and call this the *dihedral group*.

DEF 1.3 A *homomorphism* from groups $G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ is a function $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ satisfying $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$, where $a, b \in G_1$.

PROP 1.1 $\varphi(1_{G_1}) = 1_{G_2}$ and $\varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1} \forall a \in G_1$.

PROOF. $\varphi(1_{G_1}) = \varphi(1_{G_1}^2) = \varphi(1_{G_1})^2 \implies \varphi(1_{G_1}) = \varphi(1_{G_1}^{-1})\varphi(1_{G_1}) = 1_{G_2}$.
 $\varphi(a^{-1})\varphi(a) = \varphi(a^{-1}a) = \varphi(1_{G_1}) = 1_{G_2} \implies \varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1}$. □

DEF 1.4 A homomorphism which is bijective is called an *isomorphism*. If there exists an isomorphism between two groups G_1 and G_2 , we call them *isomorphic*, and write $G_1 \cong G_2$. One can thus call $\text{Aut}(G)$ the set of isomorphisms from $G \rightarrow G$.

As an example, take $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$. Note that $\varphi : G \rightarrow G$ is determined entirely by $\varphi(1)$, since $\varphi(i) = \underbrace{\varphi(1 + \dots + 1)}_{i \text{ times}} = \underbrace{\varphi(1) + \dots + \varphi(1)}_{i \text{ times}}$. How can we find

an element of $\text{Aut}(G)$? Clearly, not all mappings $\varphi(1)$ are bijective: take n to be even and $\varphi(1) = 2$. Then $\varphi(2) = 4, \varphi(3) = 6, \dots, \varphi(n/2) = 0$, so φ is not surjective. We know then that $\varphi(G) = \varphi(1)\mathbb{Z} \pmod n$, and would like $\varphi(G) = G$. If $\varphi(1)$ and n are co-prime, then we can write $k\varphi(1) + ln = k\varphi = 1$, so every element can be reached.

We can construct a group isomorphism $\eta : \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$ which sends $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi(1)$. Clearly $\eta(\varphi_{t_1} \circ \varphi_{t_2}) = \varphi_{t_1} \circ \varphi_{t_2}(1) = \varphi_{t_1}(t_2) = t_1 t_2 = \eta(\varphi_{t_1})\eta(\varphi_{t_2})$, so η is a homomorphism. It is also bijective: given $\varphi(1)$, we can deduce a mapping for each element.

DEF 1.5 For a group G and an object X , define an *action* to be a function from $G \times X \rightarrow X$ such that

1. $1 \times x = x$
2. $(g_1 g_2)x = g_1(g_2 x)$

for $x \in X, g_1, g_2 \in G$. One can create from this the automorphism $m_g : x \rightarrow gx$ of X : if $gx_1 = gx_2$, one can take the group inverse to conclude $x_1 = x_2$. Similarly, given $x \in X$, we know $m_g(g^{-1}x) = x$.

Given an action of G on X , the assignment $g \rightarrow m_g$ is a homomorphism between $G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$. PROP 1.2

$$m_{g_1 g_2}(x) = g_1 g_2 x = g_1(g_2 x) = g_1 m_{g_2}(x) = m_{g_1}(m_{g_2}(x)) = m_{g_1} \circ m_{g_2}(x) \quad \square$$

PROOF.

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In fact, given a homomorphism of this form, one can extract the group action.

A G -set is a set X endowed with a group action of G . If $\forall x, y \in X, \exists g \in G : gx = y$, we say that this G -set is *transitive*. Finally, a transitive G -set of a subset of X (" G -subset of X ") is called an *orbit* of G on X . DEF 1.6

Every G -set is a disjoint union of orbits. PROP 1.3

We define a relation on X as follows: $x \sim_G y$ if $\exists g : gx = y$. This is an equivalence relation: PROOF.

1. Take $g = 1$. Then $1x = x$, so $x \sim_G x$.
2. If $gx = y$, then $g^{-1}y = x$, so $x \sim_G y \implies y \sim_G x$.
3. If $gx = y$ and $hy = z$, then $hgx = z$, so $x \sim_G y \wedge y \sim_G z \implies x \sim_G z$.

From prior theory, we know that equivalence classes of an equivalence relation on X form a partition of X . However, by definition, the equivalence classes of the above relation are exactly the orbits of the G -set on X . □

We denote the set of equivalence classes defined in the proof above X/G .

♠ Examples ♣

E.G. 1.2

1. Let $X = \{\clubsuit\}$, G be a group, and $g\clubsuit = \clubsuit$. This is a group action. The homomorphism $m : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X) = S_1$ sends g to the identity.
2. Let $X = G$, G be a group, and $gx = gx$ (group action on the LHS, left-multiplication on the RHS). We have the homomorphism $m : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(G)$ such that $m(g)(x) = gx = gx$. This is an injective function, since we can always take the group inverse, i.e. $m(h)(x) = m(g)(x) \implies g = h$. Thus, $G \cong m(G) \subseteq \text{Aut}(G)$.
3. Let $X = G$ as before, but let $gx = xg^{-1}$. We can check that this is a group action: (1) $1 * x = x1^{-1} = x1 = x$ and (2) $g * (h * x) = (h * x)g^{-1} = xh^{-1}g^{-1}$, where $(gh) * x = x(gh)^{-1} = xh^{-1}g^{-1} \implies g * (h * x) = (gh) * x$.
4. Letting $X = G \times G$, we can form a group action from both left- and right-multiplication: $(g, h) * x = gxh^{-1}$. One can check its validity.

DEF 1.7 If X_1 and X_2 are G -sets, then an *isomorphism* from X_1 to X_2 is a bijection $\varphi : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ such that $\varphi(gx) = g\varphi(x) \forall x \in X_1, g \in G$.

DEF 1.8 Let $H < G$. Define G/H to be the set of orbits for right action on G , i.e. $\{aH : a \in G\}$, where $aH = \{ah : h \in H\}$. We call these *left cosets*. We also have *right cosets*, $\{Ha : a \in G\}$.

For example, take $G = S_3$ and $H = \{1, (12)\}$. Then $G/H = \{\{1, (12)\}, \{(13), (123)\}\} = \{H, (13)H\}$ and $H \setminus G = \{\{1, (12)\}, \{(13), (132)\}, \{(23), (123)\}\}$.

1.1 Size of Cosets

Let $H < G$. If H is finite, then $|H| = |aH| \forall a \in G$.

As proof of this fact, one may take the bijection $\varphi : H \rightarrow aH : \varphi(h) = ah$.

1.2 Lagrange

Let G be finite. The cardinality of any subgroup $H < G$ divides the cardinality of G . In particular, $|G| = |H| \cdot |G/H|$.

DEF 1.9 Define the *stabilizer* of an element of a G -set $x_0 \in X$ to be $\{g \in G : g \otimes x_0 = x_0\}$.

PROP 1.4 If X is a transitive G -set, then $\exists H < G$ such that $X \cong G/H$ as a G -set.

PROOF. Choose $x_0 \in X$. Define $H = \text{stab}(x_0) := \{g \in G : g \otimes x_0 = x_0\}$. One may show that H is indeed a subgroup. We then define $\varphi : G/H \rightarrow X$ such that $gH \mapsto gx_0$. Checking some properties:

1. φ is well defined. If $gH = g'H$, then $\exists h : gh = g'$. Then $\varphi(gH) = gx_0$ and $\varphi(g'H) = g'x_0 = ghx_0$. But $h \in \text{stab}(x_0)$, so this is just gx_0 .
2. φ is surjective. This follows from the fact that X is transitive: for $x, x_0 \in X, \exists g \in G$ with $gx_0 = x$. Then $\varphi(gH) = gx_0 = x$.
3. φ is injective. Take $g_1x_0 = g_2x_0$. Then $g_2^{-1}g_1x_0 = x_0$, so $g_2^{-1}g_1 \in H$, i.e. $g_2H = g_1H$.
4. φ is a G -set isomorphism. $\varphi(g \otimes aH) = \varphi(gaH) = gax_0 = g\varphi(aH)$. \square

1.3 Orbit-Stabilizer

If X is a transitive G -set, $x_0 \in X$, and $|G| < \infty$, then $X \cong G/\text{stab}_G(x_0)$. In particular, $|G| = |X| \cdot |\text{stab}_G(x_0)|$

Given $H < G$, we say $h_1, h_2 \in H$ are *conjugate* if $\exists g : g^{-1}h_1g = h_2$, or, equivalently, $gh_1g^{-1} = h_2$. Given $H_1, H_2 < G$, we say H_1 and H_2 are *conjugate equivalent* if every element in H_1 is conjugate to some element in H_2 . DEF 1.10

Stabilizers of elements in a transitive G -set X are conjugate equivalent. PROP 1.5

Let $x_1, x_2 \in X$ and consider $\text{stab}(x_1), \text{stab}(x_2)$. Since X is transitive, $\exists g : gx_1 = x_2$. Thus, if $h \in \text{stab}(x_2)$, i.e. $hx_2 = x_2$, then $hgx_1 = gx_1 \implies g^{-1}hgx_1 = x_1 \implies g^{-1}hg \in \text{stab}(x_1)$. Thus, there exists a conjugation of every element in $\text{stab}(x_2)$ which is an element in $\text{stab}(x_1)$. One shows the converse similarly to conclude that $\text{stab}(x_1)$ and $\text{stab}(x_2)$ are conjugate equivalent. PROOF. \square

We can show a natural bijection between the "pointed G -sets" (X, x_0) with subgroups of G : send $(X, x_0) \rightarrow \text{stab}(x_0)$ and $H \rightarrow (G/H, H)$. This establishes the intuition that the number of transitive G -sets up to isomorphism is exactly the number of subgroups of G up to conjugation. PROP 1.6

Consider an isomorphism class P of pointed G -sets, i.e. $\forall (X, x_0), (Y, y_0) \in P$, $X \cong Y$. Consider the mapping $\Phi : (X, x_0) \in P \rightarrow \text{stab}(x_0)$. The image of this mapping is a conjugation class: since $X \cong Y$, we know that there exists a unique mapping $\varphi(y_0) = x_k$. Since X is transitive, $\exists g : gx_k = x_0$. Then $h \in \text{stab}(x_0) \implies hx_0 = x_0 \implies hgx_k = gx_k \implies hg\varphi(y_0) = g\varphi(y_0) \implies \varphi(hgy_0) = \varphi(gy_0) \implies hgy_0 = gy_0 \implies g^{-1}hg \in \text{stab}(y_0)$. PROOF.

[8pt]Conversely, one can show that the image of the mapping $\Xi : H \rightarrow (G/H, H)$ over a conjugation class $I : \forall F, H \in I, \exists g \in G : g^{-1}Fg = H$ is an isomorphism class over G -sets.

[8pt]Thus, the set of G -sets up to isomorphism is in bijection with the set of $H < G$ up to conjugation. \square

♠ Examples ♠

E.G. 1.3

1. Let $H = G$. Then $G/H = \{H\}$. $X = \{*\} \cong G/H$. Similarly, if $H = 1$, then $G/H \cong G = X$.
2. Let $G = S_n$. Let $X = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. For $n \in X$, $X \cong G/\text{stab}(n) = G/S_{n-1}$.
3. Let X be a regular tetrahedron. Let $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ (the set of rigid motions). Notate $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ (for each vertex). Then G acts transitively on X . In particular, $\text{stab}(1) = \mathbb{Z}3 \implies |G| = 4 \cdot 3 = 12$.
4. Let $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ on a tetrahedron, this time *including* reflections. Then $G = S_4$, since one can always send $a \rightarrow b$ by reflecting through a plane intersecting c, d .

5. Let X be a cube, $G = \text{Aut}(X)$, the rigid motions on X . Note that there are 6 faces, 12 edges, and 8 vertices. If x_0 is a face, then $\text{stab}(x_0)$ are exactly the rotations about the axis intersecting the face, i.e. $|\text{stab}(x_0)| = 4$, so $|G| = 6 \cdot 4 = 24$. As $4! = 24$, it is tempting to consider that $G \cong S_4$. This turns out to be true: let G act on the cube's diagonals.

PROP 1.7 If $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is a homomorphism, then φ is injective $\iff \varphi(g) = 1 \implies g = 1 \forall g \in G$.

PROOF.

Let $\varphi(g) = 1$ and φ be injective. Then $\varphi(g^2) = \varphi(g) \implies g^2 = g \implies g = 1$.

[8pt] Let $\varphi(g) = 1 \implies g = 1$. Then $\varphi(a) = \varphi(b) \implies \varphi(b^{-1}a) = 1 \implies b^{-1}a = 1 \implies a = b$, so φ is injective. \square

Define $\ker(\varphi) := \{g \in G : \varphi(g) = 1\}$. This is a subgroup.

DEF 1.11 Observe that, for $g \in G, h \in \ker(\varphi)$, we have $g^{-1}hg \in \ker(\varphi)$. Subgroups which obey this property are called *normal subgroups*.

PROP 1.8 If N is normal, then $G/N = N/G$, i.e. $gN = Ng \forall g$. One can view G/N as a group with $g_1N \cdot g_2N = g_1g_2N$, and $1_{G/N} = N$.

PROOF.

$gN = \{gn : n \in N\} = \{gg^{-1}ng : n \in N\} = \{ng : n \in N\} = Ng$. The group operations follow immediately. \square

1.4 Isomorphism Theorem for Groups

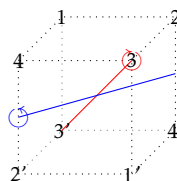
If $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is a homomorphism, $N = \ker(\varphi)$, then φ induces an injective homomorphism $\bar{\varphi} : G/N \hookrightarrow H : \bar{\varphi}(aN) = \varphi(a)$.

PROOF.

$\bar{\varphi}$ being a homomorphism follows from the fact that φ is a homomorphism. For injectivity, see that $\bar{\varphi}(aN) = 1 \implies \varphi(a) = 1 \implies a = 1$. \square

E.G. 1.4

♠ Examples ♣



Let X be a cube, and $G = \text{Aut}(X)$ be the set of rigid motions. Consider the homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow S_4$ (permutations of the diagonals). Then $\ker(\varphi) = \{\sigma \in \text{Aut}(X) : \sigma(\{ii'\}) = \{ii'\}\} = \cap_{j=1}^4 \text{stab}(\{jj'\})$. Observe that $\text{stab}(\{ii'\})$ are exactly the 3 rotations about the axis ii' (red), the 2 perpendicular rotations (blue), as well as the identity. Observe that these rotations are disjoint, so $\cap_{j=1}^4 \text{stab}(\{jj'\}) = \{1\} \implies \ker(\varphi) = 1$.

Then, we have $\bar{\varphi} : G/\ker(\varphi) \hookrightarrow S_4 = G/\{1\} \hookrightarrow S_4 = G \hookrightarrow S_4$ is injective. Since $|G| = |S_4|$, we have that $G \cong S_4$.

Consider now $\tilde{G} = \widetilde{\text{Aut}(X)}$, consisting of rigid motions *and* reflections. We have $\tilde{G}/G = \{1, \tau\}$, where τ is some orientation-reversing reflection. One can conclude then that $\#\tilde{G} = 4! \cdot 2 = 48$. One could write $\tau = -I_3$, the orientation-reversing identity. Thus $g\tau = \tau g \forall g \in \tilde{G}$. 9/13/24

It's tempting to say $\tilde{G} \cong S_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, given the construction above, and that $\tilde{G} = G \sqcup \tau G$. This is correct: take $S_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \tilde{G} : (g, i) \mapsto g\tau^i$. We verify this is a homomorphism: $g_1\tau^{i_1}g_2\tau^{i_2} = g_1g_2\tau^{i_1+i_2}$.

The *center* of G , notated $Z(G)$, is $\{z \in G : zg = gz \forall g \in G\}$. Elements in the center are their own conjugations. DEF 1.12

Let $\sigma \in S_n$ be decomposed into disjoint cycles τ_1, \dots, τ_k . The unordered set $\{|\tau_1|, \dots, |\tau_k|\}$ is called the *cycle shape* of σ . Alternatively, the cycle shape is the partition of n DEF 1.13

$$|\tau_1| + \dots + |\tau_k| = n$$

where we include all identity cycles (i), with size 1.

♠ *Examples* ♠

E.G. 1.5

1. Let $\sigma \in S_n$ fix all elements. Then the cycle shape of σ is dictated by $1 + \dots + 1 = n$.
2. Let $\sigma = (1 \ 2 \ \dots \ n) \in S_n$. The cycle shape of σ is dictated by n .
3. Consider all permutations in S_4 , decomposed into disjoint cycles. We have

the following cycle shapes:

partition	$\sigma \in S_4$	#
$1 + 1 + 1 + 1$	$\{\mathbb{1}\}$	1
$2 + 1 + 1$	$\{(12), (13), (14), (23), (24), (34)\}$	$\binom{4}{2} = 6$
$3 + 1$	$\{(123), (124), (132), (134), (142), (143), (243), (342)\}$	$4 \cdot 2 = 8$
$2 + 2$	$\{(12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$	3
4	$\{(1234), (1243), (1324), (1342), (1423), (1432)\}$	$3! = 6$

1.5 Relation Between Cycle Shape and Conjugation

Two permutations in S_n are conjugate \iff they have the same cycle shape.

PROOF.

(\implies) Let $g \sim g'$, i.e. $g' = hgh^{-1}$ for some $h \in G$. Let $g(i) = j$. Then $g'(h(i)) = hgh^{-1}h(i) = hg(i) = hj$. Thus, for a disjoint cycle τ of g , say (a, b, \dots, z) , we have that $\tau' = (h(a), h(b), \dots, h(z))$ is a disjoint cycle of g' , i.e. they have the same cycle shape.

Let $g, g' \in S_n$ have the same cycle shape. Then consider $h \in S_n$ which permutes the elements of cycles in g to the elements of cycles in g' . Then $hgh^{-1} = g'$.

For example, $g = (123)(45)(6)$ and $g' = (615)(24)(3)$. h is then (163524) . \square

E.G. 1.6

♠ Examples ♣

We'll revisit example (3) from above:

conjugacy class	#
$\mathbb{1}$	1
(12)	$\binom{4}{2} = 6$
(123)	$4 \cdot 2 = 8$
$(13)(24)$	3
(1234)	$3! = 6$

Recall that $S_4 \cong \text{Aut}(\text{cube})$. Thus, we may associate each of these conjugacy

classes with conjugacy classes of cube automorphisms:

conjugacy class	#	Aut(cube)
$\mathbb{1}$	1	Id
(12)	$\binom{4}{2} = 6$	rotations about edge diagonals by π
(123)	$4 \cdot 2 = 8$	rot'n about face centers by π
(13)(24)	3	rot'n about principal diagonals by $\frac{\pi}{3}$
(1234)	$3! = 6$	rot'n about face centers by $\frac{\pi}{2}$

Recall Lagrange's Theorem, which states that, for all $H < G$, $|H| \mid |G|$. Is the converse true? Not necessarily (try considering subgroup of order 15 of S_5).

SYLOW THEOREMS

1.6 Sylow 1

Let p be prime. If $\#G = p^t m$, $p \nmid m$, then G has a subgroup of cardinality p^t .

If $H \subseteq G$ is as in Thm 1.7, then H is called a *Sylow p -subgroup* of G .

DEF 1.14

♠ Examples ♣

E.G. 1.7

1. $\#S_5 = 120 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$. We can thus find Sylow subgroups of cardinality 8, 3, and 5.
2. $\#S_6 = 720 = 2^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5$. We can find Sylow subgroups of cardinality 16, 9, and 5. The subgroup with 9 elements can be constructed by taking $\langle (123), (456) \rangle$, the generator of two order 3 elements. This is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$. What about the subgroup of 16 elements? Take $H = D_8 \times S_2$, where D_8 acts on vertices 1, 2, 3, 4, and S_2 swaps the remaining 5, 6 independently.
3. $\#S_8 = 2^7 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$. How can we find a subgroup with $2^7 = 128$ elements? An idea would be taking $D_8 \times D_8$, and then swapping these squares via S_2 , i.e. $H = D_8 \times D_8 \times S_2$.

*Take this with a grain of salt,
I'm not sure that it works*
-Prof. Darmon

Given a prime p and a group G , the following are equivalent:

PROP 1.9

1. \exists a G -set of cardinality prime to p , i.e. not a multiple of p , with no orbit of size 1.
2. \exists a transitive G -set of cardinality ≥ 2 and prime to p .
3. G has a proper subgroup of index prime to p .

PROOF.

(1 \implies 2) Write $X = X_1 \sqcup X_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup X_k$ for orbits X_i . This orbits are especially transitive. Then $\exists j$ such that $|X_j|$ is prime to p . Suppose otherwise. Then $|X| = |X_1| + \dots + |X_k| = mp$, so $|X|$ is not prime to p .

(2 \implies 3). Let X be a transitive G set with $|X| \geq 2$ and $|X|$ prime to p . Then $X \cong G/\text{stab}(x_0)$ for some $x_0 \in X$. If $\text{stab}(x_0) = G \forall x_0 \in X$, then $X = \{\star\}$, i.e. does not have cardinality ≥ 2 . Thus, $\text{stab}(x_0) < G$ is a proper subgroup.

(3 \implies 1). Take $H < G$, a proper subgroup of index prime to p , and consider the G -set $X = G/H$. If X had an orbit of size 1, say of x_0 , then $H \sim \text{stab}(x_0) = G$, i.e. is not a proper subset. \square

PROP 1.10

For a finite group G , with $\#G = p^t m$ for some prime p and $m \neq 1$, then (G, p) satisfies Prop 1.9.

PROOF.

Let $X = \{\text{set of } H \subseteq G : \#H = p^t\}$. Then if $A \subseteq X$, $gA \in X$, since $ga = gb \implies a = b$, i.e. g acts faithfully. Furthermore, unless $g = 1$, $A \neq gA$. Thus, X has no fixed points, and thus no orbits of size 1. X therefore (almost) satisfies (1) of Prop 1.9. It remains to show that $|X|$ is prime to p .

$$\begin{aligned} \#X &= \binom{p^t m}{p^t} = \frac{(p^m)(p^m - 1) \cdot \dots \cdot (p^t m - p^t + 1)}{p^t \cdot (p^t - 1) \cdot \dots \cdot 1} \\ &= \prod_{j=0}^{p^t-1} \frac{p^t m - j}{p^t - j} \end{aligned}$$

From here, one can show that the maximal power of p dividing the numerator is the same maximal power of p which divides the denominator. Thus, p cannot divide any of the product terms. By Euler's Lemma, then, p cannot divide \prod . \square

PROOF OF SYLOW 1

Fix a prime p . Let G be a finite group of minimal cardinality for which Sylow 1 fails (such a group exists: we have found such groups in Example 1.7). By Prop 1.10, (G, p) satisfies (3) of Prop 1.9. Thus, $\exists H < G$ such that $p \nmid [G : H]$. But also, $\#H \mid \#G$, so $\#H = p^t m_0$ for $m_0 < m$.

By strong induction, $\exists N < H$ of cardinality p^t . N is thus also a p -Sylow subgroup of G , violating minimality \nmid . \square

PROP 1.11

If $\#G = p^t m$, with $p \nmid m$, then G has a proper subgroup H of cardinality $p^t m_0$: $m_0 < m$.

PROOF.

This is mentioned in the previous proof. By (3) of [Prop 1.9](#), we have a proper subgroup $H < G$ with $p \nmid \frac{p^t m}{\#H}$ and $\#H \mid p^t m$.

Thus, $\#H = p^{t_0} m_0$ with $t_0 \leq t$, $m_0 \leq m$. If $t_0 < t$, then

$$p \nmid \frac{p^t m}{p^{t_0} m_0} = p^{t-t_0} \frac{m}{m_0} \nmid$$

$\implies t_0 = t$. Then, if $m_0 = m$, $H = G$, but H is proper.

$\implies \#H = p^t m_0 : m_0 < m$. □

If G is abelian and finite, with $p \mid \#G$ for a prime p , then G has an element of order p . Thus G has a subgroup of order p .

PROP 1.12

Let $\#G = pm$. It is sufficient to find $g \in G$ with $p \mid \text{ord}(g)$, since then $\text{ord}(g^{\frac{\text{ord}(g)}{p}}) = p$. Let $g_1, \dots, g_t \in G$ be the set of generators for G . Let $n_i = \text{ord}(g_i)$. Then consider the homomorphism

PROOF.

$$\varphi : n_1 \mathbb{Z} \times \dots \times n_t \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G : (a_1, \dots, a_t) \rightarrow g_1^{a_1} \cdot \dots \cdot g_t^{a_t}$$

This is surjective, since we can always write $g \in G$ in terms of powers of generators. Recall that, for a homomorphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$, $A/\ker(\varphi) \cong \text{Im}(\varphi)$. Thus, $\#G \mid n_1 \cdot \dots \cdot n_t$. But $p \mid \#G \implies p \mid n_1 \cdot \dots \cdot n_t \implies p \mid n_j$ for some j . Then $p \mid \text{ord}(g_j)$. □

1.7 Sylow 2

If H_1, H_2 are Sylow- p subgroups of G , then $\exists g \in G$ with $gH_1g^{-1} = H_2$.

Let $\#G = p^t m : p \nmid m$. Let H_1, H_2 have cardinality p^t . Consider G/H_1 as a G -set. In fact, think of G/H_1 as an H_2 -set. Then we may decompose into orbits:

PROOF.

$$G/H_1 = X_1 \sqcup X_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup X_N$$

Then $\#X_i \#H_2$ by Orbit-Stabilizer, so $\#X_i = p^a : a \leq t \forall i$. Then \exists an orbit of size 1, otherwise $p \mid \#G/H_1 \implies p \mid m \nmid$.

Let $X_j := \{gH_1\}$. Thus, $\forall h \in H_2, hgH_1 = gH_2 \implies g^{-1}hg \in H_1$, i.e. $\exists g : g^{-1}H_2g = H_1$. Rewriting, this means $gH_1g^{-1} = H_2$. □

Given a group G and $H < G$, we call $\{g \in G : gHg^{-1} = H\}$ the *normalizer* of H .

DEF 1.15

H is a subgroup of its normalizer.

PROP 1.13

PROOF.

$\varphi : H \rightarrow H : h \mapsto ghg^{-1}$, where $g \in H$, is a bijection (check for yourself). Thus, $gHg^{-1} = H$ for a fixed $g \in H$, so $H < N$, the normalizer of H . \square

1.8 Sylow 3

Let N_p be the number of distinct Sylow- p subgroups of G . Then

1. $N_p | m$, where $\#G = p^t m : p \nmid m$
2. $N_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

PROOF.

(1st Claim) Let X be the set of Sylow- p subgroups, and consider X as a G -set under conjugation. By Sylow 2, X is transitive. Thus, $X \cong G/\text{stab}(H) \forall H \in X$. Fix some H . Notice that $\text{stab}(H)$ is the normalizer of H . Thus, $\#H | \# \text{stab}(H) \implies \#G/\# \text{stab}(H) | \#G/\#H = \frac{p^t m}{p^t} = m$. We conclude that $\#X | m$.

(2nd Claim) Let H be a Sylow- p subgroup. Let X be the set of all Sylow- p subgroups, viewed as an H -set by conjugation. We decompose X into orbits:

$$X = X_1 \sqcup X_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup X_a$$

X_i are all transitive, so $\#X_i | \#H = p^t \implies \#X_i = 1 \vee p \vee \dots \vee p^t$. We claim that there is exactly one orbit of size 1. Let $X_j = \{H'\}$ be an orbit of size 1. Then $aH'a^{-1} = H' \forall h \implies H$ is a subset of the normalizer of H' . Let $H \subseteq R = \{a \in G : aH'a^{-1} = H'\}$. Then H' is a normal subgroup of R . Thus, we may consider R/H' as a group. Then $\frac{\#R}{\#H'} = \frac{\#R}{p^t} = \frac{p^t m_0}{p^t} = m_0 < m \implies p \nmid \frac{\#R}{\#H'}$.

Consider the natural map $\varphi : R \rightarrow R/H'$. Then $\#\varphi(H) | p^t$ (by First Iso. Thm.) and also $\#\varphi(H) | \frac{\#R}{\#H'}$ (by Lagrange). But $p \nmid \frac{\#R}{\#H'}$, so $\#\varphi(H) = 1$. Then $H \subseteq \ker(\varphi) = H'$, but $\#H = \#H'$, so $H = H'$. We could always have chosen H as an orbit of size 1, and find now that all other orbits of size 1 are exactly H . Thus, $|X| = N_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. \square

PROP 1.14

If p, q are primes with $p < q$ and $p \nmid q - 1$, then all groups of cardinality pq are cyclic.

BURNSIDE'S LEMMA

DEF 1.16

Let G be a group, and let X be a G -set. Given $g \in G$, we consider $X^g := \{x \in X : gx = x\}$. Denote by $\text{FP}_X(g) = \#X^g$.

For instance, if $G = S_4$ with $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, then $X^{(12)} = \{3, 4\}$. Thus, $\text{FP}_X((12)) = 2$. Consider also $\text{FP}_X((12)(34)) = 0$.

PROP 1.15

$\text{FP}_X(hgh^{-1}) = \text{FP}_X(g) \forall h \in G$.

PROOF.

Take the bijection $\varphi : X^g \rightarrow X^{hgh^{-1}}$ by $\varphi(x) = hx$. □

1.9 Burnside's Lemma

$$\frac{1}{\#G} \sum_{g \in G} \text{FP}_X(g) = \#(X/G) = \#\text{orbits of } X$$

Let $\Sigma \subseteq G \times X$ be $\Sigma = \{(g, x) : gx = x\}$. We'll count Σ in two ways:

PROOF.

1. $\Sigma = \sum_{g \in G} \text{FP}_X(g)$ by definition
2. $\Sigma = \sum_{x \in X} \#\text{stab}(x) = \sum_{O \in X/G} \sum_{x \in O} \#\text{stab}(x)$. By Orbit-Stabilizer, $\#\text{stab}(x)\#O = \#G$, where $x \in O$. Thus, we have

$$\Sigma = \sum_{O \in X/G} \sum_{x \in O} \frac{\#G}{\#O} = \sum_{O \in X/G} \#G = \#(X/G)\#G$$

Thus, $\sum_{g \in G} \text{FP}_X(g) = \#(X/G)\#G$ as desired. □

If X is a transitive G -set, with $|X| > 1$, then $\exists g \in G$ such that $\text{FP}_X(g) = 0$.

PROP 1.16

If X is transitive, then, by Burnside, $\sum_{g \in G} \text{FP}_X(g) = \#G$. But $\text{FP}_X(1) = \#X > 1$.

PROOF.

Thus, $\sum_{g \in G \setminus 1} \text{FP}_X(g) \leq \#G - 2$. The result follows by pigeonhole principle. □

Let $C = \{1, \dots, t\}$. A coloring of X by C is a function $X \rightarrow C$. The set of such functions we denote by C^X . Note that $|C^X| = |C|^{|X|}$.

DEF 1.17

EXCEPTIONAL OUTER AUTOMORPHISM OF S_6

All automorphisms on S_n are typically *inner*, i.e. can be written instead as a conjugation by some element. However, in S_6 there exists a unique *outer* automorphism, i.e. one which is not inner. Thus, we call it *exceptional*.

We are able to find an S_5 -set of cardinality 6 (this comes from considering S_5/F_{20} , where F_{20} is the Frobenius group of 20 elements). Thus, one constructs the group action homomorphism $\varphi : S_5 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X)$, and finds the subgroup $\varphi(S_5) \cong S_5 \subseteq S_6$. We also have the typical subgroup $\text{stab}(i) \cong S_5 \subseteq S_6$. Importantly, these two subgroups are not conjugate to each other. Denote $\text{stab}(i) = S_5$ and $\varphi(S_5) = \widetilde{S}_5$.

$$S_5 \subset S_6 \supset \widetilde{S}_5$$

To investigate the outer automorphism of S_6 , we first consider the cycle shapes in F_{20} (i.e. conjugation classes of F_{20}). They are as follows:

$$(1234) \quad (12)(34) \quad (12345)$$

Similarly, in S_5 , we have

Shape	Name	#	on S_5/F_{20}
$\mathbb{1}$	1A	1	$\mathbb{1}$
(12)	2A	10	(12)(34)(56)
(12)(34)	2B	15	(12)(34)
(123)	3A	20	(123)(456)
(1234)	4A	30	(1234)
(12345)	5A	24	(12345)
(12)(345)	6A	20	(123456)

For 2A: Note that F_{20} has no transpositions, so 2A will have no fixed points. Thus, consider order 2 permutation on 6 elements with no fixed points: there is only (12)(34)(56).

For 4A: How many fixed points does 4A have in S_5/F_{20} ? It must have some, since the shape (1234) appears in F_{20} . Thus, we have an order 4 element in S_6 which fixes some points. This is only (1234).

For 2B: We know that $2A = 4A^2$, so 2A will look like (12)(34).

For 3A: There are no 3 cycles in F_{20} , so this has no fixed points in S_5/F_{20} . There is one such permutation on 6 elements, (123)(456)

For 5A: There is only one order 5 cycle on 6 elements, and that is (12345).

For 6A: Since (12)(345) is not in F_{20} , we observe no fixed points in S_5/F_{20} . There is only one such permutation on 6 elements of order 6, and that is (123456).

Thus, we conclude that $\widetilde{S}_5 \subseteq S_6$, which is constructed via the action of S_5 on S_5/F_{20} , has exactly the cycle shapes expressed in the right-most column.

Now we investigate the cycle shapes in S_6 :

Shape	Name	#	on S_6/\widetilde{S}_5
$\mathbb{1}$	1A	1	$\mathbb{1}$
(12)	2A	15	(12)(34)(56)
(12)(34)	2B	45	(12)(34)
(12)(34)(56)	2C	15	(12)
(123)	3A	40	(123)(456)
(123)(456)	3B	40	(123)
(1234)	4A	90	(1234)
(1234)(56)	4B	90	(1234)(56)
(12345)	5A	144	(12345)
(123456)	6A	120	(123)(45)
(123)(45)	6B	120	(123456)

For 2A: Since \widetilde{S}_5 contains no single transpositions, 2A on S_6/\widetilde{S}_5 will have no fixed points. There is one such permutation of order 2, then, which is (12)(34)(56).

An automorphism $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ will send conjugacy classes of G_1 to conjugacy classes of G_2 . Thus, for a conjugacy classes C_1 of G_1 , $\varphi(C_1)$ is a conjugacy class of G_2 of equal cardinality. PROP 1.17

For 2B: We map to a conjugacy class of order 2 elements of size 45 to another of size 45. Thus, there is only (12)(34).

For 2C: By pigeonhole, we can map only to the remaining conjugacy class of order 2 elements, (12).

For 3A: We do not have (123) in \widetilde{S}_5 , so we have no fixed points on S_6/\widetilde{S}_5 . The only order 3 cycle satisfying this is (123)(456).

For 3B: By pigeonhole, we map to (123).

For 4A: We have fixed points on S_6/\widetilde{S}_5 , since (1234) $\in \widetilde{S}_5$. Thus, we map to (1234).

For 4B: By pigeonhole, we map to (1234)(56).

For 5A: We have only one order 5 cycle to choose from, and that is (12345).

For 6A: The cycle (123456) is in \widetilde{S}_5 , so we act on S_6/\widetilde{S}_5 with some fixed points. The only order 6 cycle satisfying this is (123)(45).

For 6B: By pigeonhole, we map to (123456).

IDENTIFYING NORMAL SUBGROUPS

Given G , how might we identify its normal subgroups? We'll proceed by example. $G = A_5$, with $\#A_5 = 60$. We know that A_5 has no non-trivial normal subgroups. How can we show this?

One computes the conjugacy classes their sizes of G :

Shape	Name	#
$\mathbb{1}$	1A	$\mathbb{1}$
$(12)(34)$	2A	15
(123)	3A	20
(12345)	5A	24

However, in A_5 , $24 \nmid 60$, so 5A is *not* in fact a conjugacy class. Consider $X = (12345)^{A_5}$, all conjugations of 5A. This is, by definition, a transitive A_5 -set. Invoking Orbit Stabilizer, $|X| = \frac{\#A_5}{\#\text{stab}(12345)}$. Then, the stabilizer of (12345) is

$$H := \{g \in A_5 : g(12345)g^{-1} = (12345)\} = \{g \in A_5 : g(12345) = (12345)g\}$$

Clearly any power $(12345)^j$ is in H for $j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$. We can further identify $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ with \mathbb{Z}_5 , and observe that $\delta(x) = (12345)(x) = x + 1 \pmod{5}$. So we'd like $g\delta(j) = \delta(j)g \implies g(j+1) = g(j) + 1$. Thus, if $g(1) = a$, then $g(2) = a + 2$, etc., etc. Thus, we can find only 5 such δ , so indeed $H = \{(12345)^j : j \in [1, 5]\}$, and $\#X = \frac{60}{5} = 12$.

Thus, we correct our prior statement and write that $\#5A = 12$. But (12345) is not conjugate to (12354) in A_5 (a transposition runs between them), so in fact we have two conjugacy classes of 5 cycles.

Shape	Name	#
$\mathbb{1}$	1A	$\mathbb{1}$
$(12)(34)$	2A	15
(123)	3A	20
(12345)	5A	12
(12354)	5B	12

PROP 1.18

A normal subgroup is a union of conjugacy classes.

The divisors of 60 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30. We can rule out 1, ..., 12, since no conjugacy class is small enough to contain these. We must include the identity, so 15 is too small as well. For 20 and 30, by considering combinations, we cannot partition with the classes above.

MIDTERM 2023 Q4

Let n be odd. Let P be a Sylow-2 subgroup of S_{n-1} . Then P acts on $\{1, \dots, n-1\}$ without fixed points (else, P would be isomorphic to a subgroup of S_{n-2} —but $2 \nmid n-2$). Thus P lies in S_n by fixing exactly one element. We may choose n such elements, and thus n such copies of $S_{n-1} \subset S_n$.

II Rings & Fields

FIRST PROPERTIES

People developed rings by counting: $0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ are natural. We generalize:

A *ring* is a set R endowed with two binary operations, denoted $+$ and \times , such that $+, \times : R \times R \rightarrow R$. The following axioms govern rings: DEF 2.1

1. The neutral element 0 is such that $a + 0 = a \ \forall a \in R$.
2. The inverse of a , denoted $(-a)$, is such that $a + (-a) = 0$.
3. The neutral element 1 is such that $a \times 1 = a \ \forall a \in R$.
4. R is associative over (strictly) addition and multiplication
5. We have the following two distributive laws:
 - (a) $a \times (b + c) = a \times b + a \times c$.
 - (b) $(b + c) \times a = b \times a + c \times a$.

Notes on rings:

PROP 2.1

1. We denote by (R, \cdot) the ring R endowed only with only the operation \cdot . Then, $(R, +)$ is an abelian group. We call (R, \times) a *monoid*.
2. Sometimes, we do not require 1 (take the ring of even numbers, which has no units). However, in this class we will always have 1 .
3. $1 \neq 0$ (i.e. we do not consider the zero ring).
4. 0 is never invertible, and $0a = 0 \ \forall a$.
5. $(-a) \times (-b) = ab$

♠ Examples ♣


E.G. 2.1

1. \mathbb{Z} is a ring.
2. $\mathbb{Q} = \{\frac{a}{b} : b \neq 0\}$, with $+, \times$, is a ring. We may complete \mathbb{Q} by taking $\{\text{Cauchy sequences}\} / \{\text{null sequences}\} = \mathbb{R}$
3. Given a prime p , $|x - y|_p = p^{-\text{ord}_p(x-y)}$. $x - y = \prod q^{e_q} : e_q \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\text{ord}_p(x - y) = e_p$. Note that $|ab|_p = |a|_p |b|_p$, and $|a + b|_p \leq |a|_p + |b|_p$. The completion by this metric is denoted \mathbb{Q}_p (the field of p -adic numbers).
4. $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}[i] = \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$.

Recall completion in the analysis sense: X is not complete if it has a Cauchy sequence which does not converge in it; then the completion of X is $X \cup \{\text{limits of Cauchy seq's}\}$

5. $R[x] = \{a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n : a_i \in R\}$.
6. $R \leftrightarrow \# \text{ line and } \mathbb{C} \leftrightarrow \text{plane geometry}$. For the latter, we note the properties

$$a + bi = r_1 e^{i\theta_1} \quad c_1 \cdot c_2 = r_1 r_2 e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)}$$

Q: is there a ring which may be well adopted to \mathbb{R}^3 geometry? **A:** No, not quite. It is possible to do so with \mathbb{R}^4 . From this arises the Hamilton quaternions:

$$\mathbb{H} = \{a + bi + cj + dk : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}\} \quad i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$$

with $ij = -ji = k, jk = -kj = i, ik = -ki = j$.

7. Let R be some commutative ring. Then $M_n(R) = n \times n$ matrices with entries on R . $M_n(R)$ is a ring, where 0 is the matrix with all 0 entries, and 1 is the matrix with all 0 entries except on the diagonal (where they are 1).

Showing $(AB)C = A(BC)$ is tough via brute-force, but easy when taking an isomorphism from $M_n(R)$ to linear transformations on $R \rightarrow R$, with $M_1 M_2 \rightarrow f_1 \circ f_2$.

8. We may take a ring $R \rightsquigarrow (R, +, 0)$, an additive, commutative group. Similarly, $R \rightsquigarrow (R^\times, \times, 1)$, which is an associative multiplicative group. We denote by R^\times the set of units in R , i.e. $\{a \in R : \exists a' : aa' = a'a = 1\}$.

DEF 2.2 A ring R such that $r_1 r_2 = r_2 r_1 \forall r_1, r_2 \in R$ is called *commutative*.

DEF 2.3 A *homomorphism* of rings, $\varphi : R_1 \rightarrow R_2$ is such that

$$\varphi(a + b) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b) \quad \varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b) \quad \forall a, b \in R_1$$

From this arises the property $\varphi(1_{R_1}) = 1_{R_2}$. Alternatively, φ is a ring homomorphism if it is an additive group homomorphism and obeys $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$.

DEF 2.4 It is tempting to consider elements sent to 1, as in group kernels; however, *this* kernel will not be closed under multiplication, and is hence less interesting to study.

The *kernel* of φ , denoted $\ker(\varphi)$, is the set

$$\{a \in R_1 : \varphi(a) = 0\}$$

Recall that, in groups, $\ker(\varphi)$ is normal, and every normal subgroup may be conceptualized as the kernel of some group homomorphism. We have a similar notion in rings:

DEF 2.5 Note, if R is commutative, we only need to check one of these inclusions.

$I \subseteq R$ is called an *ideal* if

1. I is an additive subgroup of R
2. $\forall r \in R, ri \in I, ir \in I$

PROP 2.2 If φ is a ring homomorphism, then $\ker(\varphi)$ is an ideal.

PROOF.

Condition (1) follows from the fact that φ is an additive group homomorphism. Condition (2) follows from $\varphi(ri) = \varphi(r)\varphi(i) = \varphi(r) \cdot 0 = 0$, and similarly for $\varphi(ir) = 0$. \square

If $I \subseteq R_1$ is an ideal, then \exists a ring R_2 and a homomorphism $\varphi : R_1 \rightarrow R_2$ such that $\ker(\varphi) = I$. PROP 2.3

Consider $R_2 := R_1/I = \{a + I : a \in R_1\}$. Since I is commutative as an additive ring, it is normal, and thus R_1/I is a group under addition. For multiplication, we define $(a+I)(b+I) = (ab+I)$. Then let $\varphi : R_1 \rightarrow R_1/I$ be such that $a \mapsto a+I$. $\ker(\varphi) = \{a \in R_1 : a+I = I\} = \{a \in R_1 : a \in I\} = I$. \square

PROOF.

Note that $0_{R/I} = 0 + I$ and $1_{R/I} = 1 + I$.

2.1 First Isomorphism Theorem

Let R be a ring (or a group), and let φ be a surjective ring (or group) homomorphism. Then $\text{Im}(\varphi) \cong R/\ker(\varphi)$.

We may take $\text{Im}(\varphi) \rightarrow R/\ker(\varphi) : a \mapsto \varphi^{-1}(a)$ and $R/\ker(\varphi) \rightarrow \text{Im}(\varphi) : a + \ker(\varphi) \mapsto \varphi(a)$. One can show without too much trouble that these are homomorphisms and inverses of each other, and thus bijective. \square

PROOF.

An ideal $I \subseteq R$ is called *maximal* if it is not properly contained in any proper ideal of R , i.e. $I \subsetneq I' \implies I' = R$ for any ideal I' . DEF 2.6

An ideal $I \subseteq R$ is called *prime* if $ab \in I \implies a \in I$ or $b \in I$. DEF 2.7

Let $R = \mathbb{Z}$, $I = n\mathbb{Z} = (n) = \{na : a \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Then (n) is prime $\iff n$ is prime. PROP 2.4

(\Leftarrow) If $ab \in (n)$, then $n|ab$. By Gauss' Lemma, $n|a$ or $n|b$. Thus, $a \in (n)$ or $b \in (n)$. PROOF.

(\Rightarrow) By contrapositive: let $n = ab$. Then $ab \in (n)$. But $a, b < n$, so $a, b \notin (n)$. \square

2.2 Integers are Principal

If $I \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ is an ideal, then $\exists n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $I = (n)$.

PROOF.

Proof 1. Consider the quotient \mathbb{Z}/I . As an abelian group, it is cyclic, generated by $1 + I$. Let $n := \#(\mathbb{Z}/I) = \text{ord}(1 + I)$. If $n = \infty$, then $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/I$ is injective, so $I = (0)$. Otherwise, $I = (n)$.

Proof 2. Assume that $I \neq (0)$. Let $n = \min\{a \in I : a > 0\}$. Let $a \in I$. Then $a = qn + r$, where $0 \leq r < n$. Then $a \in I, n \in I, qn \in I$ (by sucking in), so $a - qn \in I$. Thus, $r \in I \implies r = 0$ by minimality. \square

DEF 2.8

Let R be a commutative ring. An ideal of the form $aR = (a) = \{ar : r \in R\}$ is called a *principal ideal*.

DEF 2.9

A ring in which every ideal is principal is called a *principal ideal ring*.

2.3 Polynomials are Ideal

Consider $R = \mathbb{F}[x]$, where \mathbb{F} is a field. If I is an ideal of $\mathbb{F}[x]$, then I is principal

By convention, we say $\deg(0) = -\infty$ in order to satisfy $\deg f(x)g(x) = \deg f(x) + \deg g(x)$. Note that $\deg(c) = 0$ where $c \neq 0$.

PROOF.

Let $f(x)$ be a polynomial in I of minimal degree (with $I \neq (0)$). Then let $\deg f(x) = d$, where $d \leq \deg g(x) \forall g \in \mathbb{F}[x]$.

For $g(x) \in I$, we may write $g(x) = f(x)q(x) + r(x)$, where $\deg r(x) < d$. Then $r(x) \in I$ by the same arguments presented in Thm 2.2. Thus, $\deg r(x) = 0$, so $I = (f)$. \square

E.G. 2.2

♠ Examples ♣

1. Let $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$, and let $I = \{a + n\mathbb{Z}\}$ be some ideal of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. Then $\varphi^{-1}(I)$ is an ideal of \mathbb{Z} . Hence, $\varphi^{-1}(I) = (a)$ for some $a \in \mathbb{Z}$.
2. Let $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]$. Then $I = \{f(x) : f(0) \text{ is even}\} \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}[x]$. We claim that I is an ideal. We know that I is an additive subgroup of $\mathbb{Z}[x]$. If $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, $g(x) \in I$, then $f(x)g(x) \in I$, since $f(0)g(0)$ is always even.
3. If I were of the form $a\mathbb{Z}[x]$, then $a|2$ and $a|x$, so $a = \pm 1$. But $I \subsetneq \mathbb{Z}[x]$, so this can't be the case. From this example we consider $I = (2, x) = 2\mathbb{Z}[x] + x\mathbb{Z}[x]$. This is not principal.
4. Let $R = \mathbb{F}[x, y]$ (a polynomial ring of two variables). Consider $(x, y) = Rx + Ry$. Note that all elements in this ideal are non-constant. We may write $Rx + Ry = \{f(x, y) : f(0, 0) = 0\}$.

PROP 2.5

I is a prime ideal of R if and only if R/I has no zero divisors (i.e. $\exists x, y \neq 0 : xy = 0$).

DEF 2.10

A ring which satisfies this is called an *integral domain*.

PROOF.

(\implies). Given $a + I, b + I \in R/I$, let $(a + I)(b + I) = 0$. Then $ab + I = 0$, so $ab \in I$. Then $a \in I$ or $b \in I$, i.e. $a + I = 0$ or $b + I = 0$. Thus, R/I has no zero divisor. \square

REMARK

If R is an integral domain, then it satisfies the cancellation law:

$$\forall a \neq 0, ax = ay \implies x = y$$

I is a maximal ideal $\iff R/I$ is a field.

PROP 2.6

(\implies) $a + I \in R/I$. If $a + I \neq 0$, then $Ra + I \supsetneq I$. By maximality, $Ra + I = R$. Then, let $b \in R, i \in I$. We have $1 = ba + i \implies 1 + I = (b + I)(a + I) \implies (b + I) = (a + I)^{-1}$.

PROOF.

(\impliedby) Given an ideal $J \supsetneq I$, let $a \in J - I$. Then $a + I \neq 0$. Thus, $\exists b$ such that $ba + I = 1 + I$ in R/I , since it is a field. Thus, $1 \in J \implies R = J$. (By absorption property). \square

I is prime $\iff R/I$ is an integral domain.

PROP 2.7

QUOTIENTS

$R/I, a + I = b + I \iff a - b \in I$. If $I = (d)$, then $a + I = b + I \iff d \mid (b - a)$.

PROP 2.8

♠ Examples ♣

E.G. 2.3

1. $R = \mathbb{Z}, I = (n)$. Then $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{a + n\mathbb{Z} : a \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1\}^\dagger$
2. $R = \mathbb{F}[x], I = (f(x))$. Then $\mathbb{F}[x]/(f(x)) = \{p(x) + f(x)\mathbb{F}[x]\} = \{p(x) : \deg(p(x)) \leq d - 1\}$, where $d = \deg(f(x))^\dagger$
3. $R = \mathbb{Z}[x], I = (2, x) = \{f(x) : f(0) \text{ even}\}$. Then $\mathbb{Z}[x]/(2, x)$ has two elements: functions where $f(0)$ is even, and functions where $f(0)$ is odd. Thus, $\mathbb{Z}[x]/(2, x) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.

 † as representatives

Consider the homomorphism $\varphi : \mathbb{Z}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ such that $f(x) \mapsto f(0) \pmod{2}$. This is clearly surjective. Then $\ker(\varphi) = \{f(x) : f(0) \text{ even}\} = (2, x)$. By Thm 2.1, $\mathbb{Z}[x]/\ker(\varphi) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, so $\mathbb{Z}[x]/(2, x) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. \square

PROOF.

4. $R = \mathbb{F}[x, y], I = (x, y) = x\mathbb{F}[x, y] + y\mathbb{F}[x, y] = \{f(x, y) : f(0, 0) = 0\}$. Then $R/I \cong \mathbb{F}$, with cosets classifying exactly $f(0, 0)$.

Consider $\varphi : f(x, y) + I \mapsto f(0, 0)$, as before. \square

PROOF.

5. $R = \mathbb{F}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, $I = (f_1, \dots, f_t)$, where $f_i(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ are polynomials of n variables. Finding R/I is difficult. We are touching on algebraic geometry here. Let

$$V(I) = \left\{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \text{ s.t. } \begin{cases} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \\ f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \\ \vdots \\ f_t(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \end{cases} \right\} \in (\overline{\mathbb{F}})^n$$

The algebraic closure of \mathbb{F} .

PROP 2.9

Given a ring R , $p(x) \in R[x]$, there exists a ring $S \supset R$ containing a root of $p(x)$.

PROOF.

Let $S = R[x]/(p(x))$. Then consider $R \rightarrow S$ by $a \mapsto a + (p(x))$. Let $\alpha = x + (p(x))$. Then $p(\alpha) = p(x) + (p(x)) = 0 + (p(x))$. \square

For example, $R = \mathbb{R}$, $p(x) = x^2 + 1$. $R[x]/(x^2 + 1) = \mathbb{C}$.

2.4 Adjustment of Elements

Let \mathbb{F} be a field, and let $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$ be irreducible. Then \exists a field $K \supset F$ such that K contains a root of $f(x)$.

PROOF.

We let $K = \mathbb{F}[x]/\langle f(x) \rangle$. We wish to show that $\langle f(x) \rangle$ is maximal. Assume otherwise. Then $\langle f(x) \rangle \subseteq I$. But $\mathbb{F}[x]$ is principle, so $\exists g$ with $I = \langle g(x) \rangle$. Then $f(x) = g(x)q(x)$ for some $q(x) \in \mathbb{F}[x]$. But $f(x)$ is irreducible, so $g(x) = \alpha \vee \alpha f(x)$. In the former, we have that $I = \mathbb{F}[x]$. In the latter, we have that $I = \langle f(x) \rangle$. Thus, we conclude that $\langle f(x) \rangle$ is maximal.

Thus, $\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle f(x) \rangle$ is a field. We also need to show that $K \supset \mathbb{F}$, i.e. find an injection between the two. Let $\varphi : \mathbb{F} \hookrightarrow K : \lambda \rightarrow \lambda + \langle f(x) \rangle$.

Lastly, we need to show that $f(t)$ has a root in K . We have $f(t) \in \mathbb{F}[t] \subset K[t]$. Let $\alpha \in K := x + \langle f(x) \rangle$. Then $f(\alpha) = f(x + \langle f(x) \rangle) = f(x) + \langle f(x) \rangle = 0$ in K . \square

Generally, for R/I , $f(x) \in R[x]$, and $a + I \in R/I$, we have $f(a + I) = f(a) + I$. One may show this by induction.

E.G. 2.4

♠ Examples ♣

1. Consider $F = \mathbb{R}$, $x^2 + 1$. Let $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}[x]/\langle x^2 + 1 \rangle$. Concretely, this is $\{a + bx : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $x^2 \cong -1 \pmod{x^2 + 1}$.

2. Consider $F = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle x^2 - 2 \rangle$. Then $K = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle x^2 - 2 \rangle := \mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}] = \langle a + b\sqrt{2} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q} \rangle$.

If F is a finite field, then $\#F = p^t$ with p a prime number.

PROP 2.10

If R is any ring, then there is a unique homomorphism $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R$ which sends $0_{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow 0_R$ and $1_{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow 1_R$. This same homomorphism applied to F , i.e. $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow F$, is not injective, since F is finite.

PROOF.

Let $\ker(\varphi) = I$. Then, by the isomorphism theorem, $\bar{\varphi} : \mathbb{Z}/I \rightarrow F$ which sends $a + I \rightarrow \varphi(a)$ is an injection. Thus, we may view \mathbb{Z}/I as a subring of F . Hence, \mathbb{Z}/I contains no zero divisors, so it is an integral domain. Hence, by Prop 2.7, I is a prime ideal. In \mathbb{Z} , this means $I = p\mathbb{Z}$ for some p .

Thus, F contains $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. Then F may be viewed as a vector space over $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$, necessarily finite dimensional. Thus, let $t = \dim(F)$. Hence, $F \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^t$ as a vector space isomorphism, so $\#F = p^t$. \square

Given a prime p and some t , is there a field of cardinality p^t ? If so, how many are there? If $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}[x]$ is irreducible of degree t , then we have a candidate for $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}[x]/\langle f(x) \rangle$ has cardinality p^t .

III Modules & Vector Spaces

Just as we can associate $G \rightsquigarrow G\text{-set}$, we wish to let rings "act" on something, i.e. $R \rightsquigarrow R\text{-module}$.

DEF 3.1

An R -module over R is an abelian group M equipped with a map $R \times M \rightarrow M$. Let λ_x and m_x denote elements in R and M , respectively. Then the map satisfies

1. $\lambda(m_1 + m_2) = \lambda m_1 + \lambda m_2$
2. $\lambda(-m) = -\lambda m$
3. $\lambda 0_M = 0_M$

In other words, $\forall \lambda \in R$, the map $m \mapsto \lambda m$ is a group homomorphism $M \rightarrow M$.

4. $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)m = \lambda_1 m + \lambda_2 m$
5. $(\lambda_1 \lambda_2)m = \lambda_1(\lambda_2 m)$
6. $1_R m = m$

DEF 3.2

If M is an abelian group, then $\text{End}(M) = \{f : M \rightarrow M : f \text{ is a group homo.}\}$ This is in fact a ring, with $(f + g)(m) = f(m) + g(m)$, and $(f \cdot g)(m) = f(g(m))$.

All of these axioms may be simplified into the following: $R \times M \rightarrow M$ defines a ring homomorphism $R \rightarrow \text{End}(M)$.

Remark: If $R = \mathbb{F}$ is a field, then an R -module is called a vector space.

DEF 3.3

We cannot make sense of infinite sums here, and only consider finite linear combinations. However Σ may be itself infinite.

DEF 3.4

Let M be an R -module. A set $\Sigma \subseteq M$ is called a *spanning set* if, for all $m \in M$, $\exists m_1, \dots, m_t \in \Sigma$, $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_t \in R$, with

$$m = \lambda_1 m_1 + \dots + \lambda_t m_t$$

$\Sigma \subseteq M$ is said to be *linearly independent* if, $\forall m_1, \dots, m_t \in \Sigma$ and $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_t \in R$,

$$\lambda_1 m_1 + \dots + \lambda_t m_t \implies \lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_t = 0$$

DEF 3.5

$\Sigma \subseteq M$ is a *basis* if it is a spanning set and is linearly independent.

3.1 Existence of a Basis

If $R = \mathbb{F}$ is a field and V is a vector space over \mathbb{F} , then V has a basis.

PROOF.

Let \mathcal{L} be the set of all linearly independent sets of V . Inclusion gives a partial ordering on \mathcal{L} . Hence, \mathcal{L} with this property satisfies the maximal chain condition, namely, if $S \subseteq \mathcal{L}$ is totally ordered under inclusion, then $\exists \Sigma \in \mathcal{L}$ which contains all elements in S . One can just take $\Sigma = \cup_{B \in S} B$ (we cannot necessarily take the maximum, as S may be infinite).

Zorn's Lemma states that there is an element $B \in \mathcal{L}$ which is maximal (i.e. if $B \subsetneq B'$, then $B' \notin \mathcal{L}$). We already know that B is linearly independent. It remains to show that it is spanning. Suppose otherwise, and let $v \in V$ be s.t. $v \notin \text{span}(B)$. Then $B \cup \{v\}$ is linearly independent, hence violating maximality of B . Hence, B is a basis. Checking this last claim, you'll notice that we need R to be a field.

♠ Examples ♣

E.G. 3.1

Take R to be a commutative ring:

1. V is *finitely generated* if it admits a finite spanning set.
2. If $V = \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{Q}$, then we cannot find a basis (this is called the Hamel basis).
3. The existence of a basis for modules is far from guaranteed. Take $R = \mathbb{Z}$. Note that a \mathbb{Z} -module is just an abelian group. Let $M = \mathbb{Z}^n$. Does M over R have a basis? Yes, just take the standard basis. What about $M = \mathbb{Q}$. Then any two elements in M are linearly dependent, e.g.

$$\frac{a}{b} \quad \frac{c}{d} \implies (bc)\frac{a}{b} = ca = ac = \frac{c}{d}(da)$$

Furthermore, any finite set in \mathbb{Q} cannot span \mathbb{Q} over \mathbb{Z} . Consider

$$S = \left\{ \frac{a_1}{b_1}, \dots, \frac{a_N}{b_N} \right\} \implies \frac{1}{a_1 \cdot \dots \cdot a_N + 1} \notin \text{span}(S)$$

What about $M = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ as a \mathbb{Z} module? We have that $\{1\}$ spans M , but is not linearly independent, since $n \cdot 1 \equiv 0$ (a singleton, *not linearly independent?* Woah). Since we may characterize bases as minimally spanning sets, M has no basis.

4. If $M \subseteq R$, then M is an R -module if it is an ideal. If I is an ideal, then I has a basis $\iff I = (a) = aR$, i.e. is principal, where a is not a zero divisor.

An R -module homomorphism is a function $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ s.t.

DEF 3.6

1. f is a group homomorphism.
2. $f(\lambda m) = \lambda f(m) \quad \lambda \in R, m \in M_1$

$\ker(f) = \{m \in M : f(m) = 0\}$. Note that, by (2) of the definition above, $\lambda m \in \ker(f)$ if $m \in \ker(f)$. Hence, $\ker(f)$ is an R -submodule of M .

DEF 3.7

If $N \subseteq M$ are R -modules, then M/N is a group (since N is normal based on R being commutative), and an R -module itself, where we define $\lambda(a + N) = \lambda a + N$.

PROP 3.1

3.2 First Isomorphism Theorem

If $f : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ is a module homomorphism, then it induces an injective homomorphism

$$\bar{f} : M_1 / \ker(f) \rightarrow M_2 : a + \ker(f) \mapsto f(a)$$

DEF 3.8

An R -module M is said to be *free* if it has a basis.

PROP 3.2

If M is free with a finite basis e_1, \dots, e_n , then $M \cong R^n$.

3.3 Bases Have Same Cardinality

If M is a free R -module with a finite basis, then any two bases of M have the same cardinality.

PROOF.

Let I be a proper maximal ideal in R . Consider now the set $IM = \text{span}(\lambda m : \lambda \in I, m \in M)$. Then IM is an R -submodule of M , and so M/IM is an R -submodule. Since I acts as 0 on M/IM , we have that M/IM is a vector space over $F = R/I$ (which is a field, since I is maximal), where

$$(\lambda + I)(m + IM) = \lambda m + IM$$

If M has a basis of size n , then $M \cong R^n$. Then $M/IM \cong F^n$ as a vector space.

If $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and $\{f_1, \dots, f_m\}$ are bases of M , then $M \cong R^n \cong R^m$, so $M/IM \cong F^n \cong F^m$ as a vector space, so $n = m$. \square

DEF 3.9

If M is free then the cardinality of its basis is called the *rank* of M over R .

Let $\beta = \{m_1, \dots, m_n\}$ be a basis of M . Then we have $R^n \cong M$ by the isomorphism

$$\varphi_\beta : R^n \rightarrow M : \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \beta \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = \lambda_1 m_1 + \dots + \lambda_n m_n$$

We may conclude that β is a basis $\iff \varphi_\beta$ is an R -module isomorphism.

PROP 3.3

If $\beta' = \{m'_1, \dots, m'_n\}$ and β (as above) are bases for M , then there is an invertible matrix $P \in \text{GL}_n(R)$ with $\beta' = \beta \cdot P$

FREE MODULE HOMOMORPHISM

Let $T : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ for free modules M_1, M_2 with rank n and m , where T is a group homomorphism which also respects $T(\lambda m) = \lambda T(m) \forall \lambda \in R$. Let B_1, B_2 be their bases. Then let

$$M_{T, B_1, B_2} = M \in M_{m \times n}(R)$$

where the j^{th} column of M is given by the coordinate of $T(e_i)$ relative to B_2 , where $e_i \in B_1$. Then we yield the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_1 & \xrightarrow{T} & M_2 \\ \varphi_{B_1} \wr \uparrow & & \wr \uparrow \varphi_{B_2} \\ R^n & \xrightarrow{M} & R^m \end{array}$$

i.e. $M = \varphi_{B_2}^{-1} T \varphi_{B_1}$ and $T = \varphi_{B_2} M \varphi_{B_1}^{-1}$. What if $M_1 = M_2 = M$, then $B_1 = B_2 = B$, and $M \in M_n(R)$. Given $T : M \rightarrow M$ and any two bases B and B' , the matrices $M_{T,B}$ and $M_{T,B'}$ are conjugate to each other, i.e. $\exists P \in \text{GL}_n(R)$ with $M_{T,B} = P M_{T,B'} P^{-1}$.

Let $P \in \text{GL}_n(R)$ be such that $B' = BP$. Then we find that $\varphi_{B'} = \varphi_B \circ P$. From this, we get $M_{T,B} = \varphi_B^{-1} T \varphi_B$ and $M_{T,B'} = \varphi_{B'}^{-1} T \varphi_{B'} = P^{-1} M_{T,B} P$ as desired. \square

PROOF.

Consider $M_n(R)$ as a free R -module of rank n^2 , where $B = \{E_{ij}\}$. Then $\text{GL}_n(R)$ acts on $M_n(R)$ by conjugation. What are its orbits, i.e. when are matrices conjugate to each other?

Minimal Polynomial

Assume now that $R = F$ is a field. Let T be a transformation, and for some fixed basis β , let $M = [T]_\beta$. Hence consider a homomorphism

$$\text{ev}_M : F[x] \rightarrow M_n(F) : f(x) \mapsto f(M)$$

ev_M is not injective, since $\dim(M_n(F)) = n^2$ but $\dim(F[x]) = \infty$. Hence, $\ker(\text{ev}_M)$ is infinite dimensional. Recall that it is also an ideal of $F[x]$, so it is generated by a unique monic polynomial $p(x)$, i.e. $\ker(\text{ev}_M) = \langle p(x) \rangle$.

$p(x)$ is called the *minimal polynomial* of M . It is not unique necessarily, but we can always choose a unique monic minimal polynomial, say $p_M(x)$.

DEF 3.10

The defining property of $p_M(x)$, or any minimal polynomial, is that $p_M(M) = 0$, and, if $f(M) = 0$, then $p_M(x) | f(x)$.

There is one hole in this construction: we chose a basis to cook up M . Note that different matrix representations of T are conjugate. Hence:

$$p_{AMA^{-1}}(x) = p_M(x) \text{ for any } A \in \text{GL}_n(F)$$

PROP 3.4

Given $A \in \text{GL}_n(F)$, the map $M \mapsto AMA^{-1}$ is an automorphism of $M_n(F)$. Furthermore, we have $(AMA^{-1})^k = AM^k A^{-1}$ and $A(M_1 + M_2)A^{-1} = AM_1 A^{-1} + AM_2 A^{-1}$.

PROOF.

$f \in \ker(\text{ev}_M) \iff f(M) = 0 \iff Af(M)A^{-1} = 0 \iff f(AMA^{-1}) = 0 \iff f \in \ker(\text{ev}_{AMA^{-1}})$, as viewed by the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F[x] & \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_M} & M_n(F) \\ & \searrow \text{ev}_{AMA^{-1}} & \downarrow P \mapsto APA^{-1} \\ & & M_n(F) \end{array}$$

□

Because of this independence from choice of basis, we write $p_M = p_T$, and the following definition replaced the old one:

DEF 3.11 The *minimal polynomial* of T is the unique monic polynomial over F satisfying

$$p(T) = 0 \quad f(T) = 0 \implies p(x)|f(x)$$

In particular, where $\text{ev}_T : F[x] \rightarrow \text{End}_F(V)$ and $f(x) \mapsto f(T)$, we have $\langle p_T(x) \rangle = \ker(\text{ev}_T)$.

We can think of $\deg(p_T(x))$ as the smallest m such that $\{I, T, T^2, \dots, T^{m+1}\}$ certainly is not linearly independent. Let $\dim(V) = n$. Then $\dim(\text{End}(V)) = n^2$, since $\text{End}(V) \cong M_n(F)$. Hence, $\deg p_T(x) \leq n^2$.

Note that, if $n > 1$, then $\text{ev}_T : F[x] \rightarrow \text{End}(V)$ is *not* surjective. Why? $F[x]$ is commutative, and the image of $F[x]$ under a homomorphism must also be commutative.

Q: What is the largest dimension k of a commutative subring of $\text{End}(V) \cong M_n(F)$? This would bound $\deg p_T(x) \leq k \leq n^2$.

DEF 3.12 λ is an eigenvalue of T if $\exists v \in V \setminus \{0\}$ such that $T(v) = \lambda v$

3.4 Roots of Minimal Polynomial are Eigenvalues

If $p_T(\lambda) = 0$, then λ is an eigenvalue of T .

PROOF.

$p_T(\lambda) = 0 \implies p_T(x) = (x - \lambda)q(x)$. But also $0 = p_T(T) = (T - \lambda I)q(T)$. We know $q(T) \neq 0$ and $\text{Im}(q(T)) \subseteq \ker(T - \lambda I)$. Hence, if $v \in \text{Im}(q(T))$ for $v \neq 0$, then $(T - \lambda I)(v) = 0 \implies T(v) = \lambda v$. □

3.5 Eigenvalues are Roots of Minimal Polynomial

If λ is an eigenvalue, then $p_T(\lambda) = 0$

PROOF.

We have $T(v) = \lambda v$. Consider any $g(x) \in F[x]$. Then $g(T)(v) = g(\lambda)v$. Fix $v \neq 0$. Then, $0 = p_T(T)(v) = p_T(\lambda)v \implies p_T(\lambda) = 0$. \square

3.6 $\deg(p_T(x)) \leq n$

If V has a cyclic vector v for T , then we are done. Recall that a cyclic vector v is such that $\{v, \dots, T^{n-1}(v)\}$ is linearly independent. This means that $\exists f$ of degree n with $f(T)(v) = 0$. But this means that, in particular, $f(T) = 0$.

PROOF.

Otherwise, we proceed by induction on $\dim(V)$. Consider the following statement: $S_n =$ "If T is an homomorphism of a vector space V of dimension n , then $\deg(p_T(x)) \leq n$."

Let $v \neq 0 \in V$. Consider $W = \text{span}(v, T(v), \dots, T^k(v), \dots)$. Assume that $W \neq V$, or else we'll have that v is a cyclic vector. Note that W is then stable under T (i.e. maps to itself under T).

If W is T -stable, then T induces a homomorphism

$$\bar{T} : V/W \rightarrow V/W \quad v + W \mapsto T(v) + W$$

which is well-defined. As proof, suppose $v_1 + W = v_2 + W$. Then $v_1 - v_2 \in W$, so, since W is T -stable, $T(v_1 - v_2) \in W$. Hence $T(v_1) - T(v_2) \in W$, so $T(v_1) + W = T(v_2) + W$.

Consider now $p_{\bar{T}}(x)$ and p_{T_W} . By induction hypothesis, we know that $\deg(p_{\bar{T}}) \leq \dim(W)$ and $\deg(p_{T_W}) \leq \dim(V/W)$.

We claim that $p_{T_W}(x)p_{\bar{T}}(x)$ vanishes on T . By definition, we know $p_{\bar{T}}(\bar{T}) = 0$. Hence, $p_{\bar{T}}(\bar{T})(v + W) = 0$, i.e. $p_{\bar{T}}(T)(v) + W = 0$, so $p_{\bar{T}}(T)(v) \in W$. \square

We could, at first, note that $p_T | f_T$, where $f_T = \det(\lambda I - t)$ is the characteristic polynomial, which has degree $\leq n$. But we haven't yet seen these.

PROOF.

Recall from homework: let T be of order 7 in $\text{GL}_3(F_2) \cong \text{End}_{F_2}(F_2^3)$. Let $f = x^7 - 1$.

1. $p_T(1) \neq 0$. Otherwise, T has an eigenvalue, so $\exists v : Tv = v$. But then $T \in \text{stab}(v)$, which has cardinality $\frac{168}{7} = 24$. But T has order 7, which doesn't divide 24.
2. For $v \neq 0$, $\{v, T(v), T^2(v)\}$ are linearly independent, and hence a basis for V . Write $a_0v + a_1T(v) + a_2T^2(v) = 0$. Then, rewriting $f(x) = a_0 + a_1T + a_2T^2$, we have $f(T)(v) = 0$. So, in particular, $f(T)$ has non-trivial

kernel, and is not invertible. But $\gcd(f(x), p_T(x)) = 1$.

Lemma: If $\gcd(f(x), p_T(x)) = 1$, then $f(T)$ is invertible. Let $1 = a(x)f(x) + b(x)p_T(x)$. Evaluating at T , we have $I = a(T)f(T) + b(T)p_T(T) \implies I = a(T)f(T)$, so $a(T) = f^{-1}(T)$. (Note: this gives an algorithm for finding an inverse of a function, in terms of the Euclidean algorithm, given that the minimal polynomial is known!)

Hence, $T^3(v)$ is a linear combination of $v, T(v), T^2(v)$. Hence, $\exists f = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3$ such that $f(T)(v) = 0$. But, in particular, $T \circ f(T)(v), T \circ f(T)(T(v))$, and $T \circ f(T)(T^2(v)) = 0$, so $f(T) = 0$.

□

Quotients

If $N \subseteq M$ are R -modules, then M/N is also an R -module.

If M, N are free over R , then M/N need not be free.

E.G. 3.2

♠ Examples ♣

- 1.
2. $M = \mathbb{Q}, N = \mathbb{Z}, R = \mathbb{Z}$. M is not free. And M/N is not free either (any singleton a is not linearly independent, by multiplying by the denominator).
3. $M = \mathbb{Z}, N = m\mathbb{Z}, M/N = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. Both \mathbb{Z} and $m\mathbb{Z}$ are free, but M/N is not.

If $R = \mathbb{F}$ is a field and $W \subseteq V$ are F -vector spaces, then V/W is a vector space.

3.7 Something

$$\dim(V) = \dim(W) + \dim(V/W)$$

PROOF.

$m = \dim(W), n = \dim(V)$. Let (v_1, \dots, v_m) be a basis for W . We can complete it to a basis $(v_1, \dots, v_m, v_{m+1}, \dots, v_n)$ for V . We then claim that $v_{m+1} + W, \dots, v_n + W$ form a basis for V/W .

Let $v + W \in V/W$. We can write $v = \lambda_1 v_1, \dots, \lambda_n v_n$. But then $v + W = \lambda_{m+1}(v_{m+1} + W) + \dots + \lambda_n(v_n + W)$.

For linearly independence, suppose $\exists \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ such that

$$\lambda_{m+1}(v_{m+1} + W) + \dots + \lambda_n(v_n + W) = 0$$

we can re-write this as

$$(\lambda_{m+1}v_{m+1} + \dots + \lambda_nv_n) + W = 0$$

Thus, $\exists \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ such that

$$\lambda_{m+1}v_{m+1} + \dots + \lambda_nv_n = -\lambda_1v_1 - \dots - \lambda_mv_m$$

But we have linear independence of v_1, \dots, v_n , so in particular $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n = 0$. \square

If $T : V \rightarrow V$ is a linear transformation, and W is a T -stable subspace, then T induces PROP 3.5

$$\bar{T} : V/W \rightarrow V/W \quad v + W \mapsto T(v) + W$$

Importantly, it is not always true that W has a T -stable complement.

♠ Examples ♣

E.G. 3.3

1. Consider $T : V \rightarrow W$ to be the projection of V onto W . Then $T^2 = T$, and indeed W is T -stable. Notice that $\ker(T)$ is a complimentary subspace of W . In particular, $v = Tv + (v - Tv) = Tv + u$ with $u \in \ker(T)$, since $T(v - Tv) = Tv - T^2v = Tv - Tv = 0$.
2. $V = \mathbb{F}_2^2$. Let $T \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $T \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Let $W = F \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. This is T -stable by definition. Let $W' = F \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ (which is complimentary to W). Then $T \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda + 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$, so W is *not* T -stable.

How can we understand $T : V \rightarrow V$. First, find a non-trivial T -stable $W \subseteq V$ and a non-trivial T -stable $W' \subseteq V$ which is complimentary to W . Then

$$V = W \oplus W'$$

$p_T(x)$ divides $p_{T|_W} \circ p_{\bar{T}}$.

PROP 3.6

We know that $p_{\bar{T}}(T)$ maps V to W , and $p_{T|_W}$ maps W to 0. hence $p_{T|_W} \circ p_{\bar{T}}(T) = 0$, so p_T divides it. \square

PROOF.

Proof of 3.6 (continued)

PROOF.

We proceed by induction on $\dim(V)$. Choose $v \neq 0$. Consider $W = \text{span}(v, T(v), \dots, T^k(v))$.
Case 1: $W = V$. Then W is T -stable. *Case 2:* $W \subsetneq V$. Then p_T divides $p_{T|_W} p_{\bar{T}}$, so in particular $\deg(p_T) \leq \deg(p_{T|_W}) + \deg(p_{\bar{T}}) \leq \dim(W) + \dim(V/W) = \dim(V)$ by induction hypothesis. \square

Motivation

Consider V and $T : V \rightarrow V$. Then T endows V with the structure of an $\mathbb{F}[x]$ module, where the action of $\mathbb{F}[x]$ on V is given by $f(x) \cdot v = f(T)(v)$. Conversely, an $\mathbb{F}[x]$ action on V can generate $T(v) = xv$.

Just as $\mathbb{F}[x]$ modules are somewhat the same as vector spaces V equipped with a transformation T , \mathbb{Z} modules are somewhat the same as abelian groups.

3.8 Primary Decomposition Theorem

Suppose that $p_T(x)$ factors into $p_1(x)p_2(x)$ with $\gcd(p_1, p_2) = 1$. Then there exists unique subspaces $V_1, V_2 \subseteq V$ such that

1. $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$
2. V_j is stable under T
3. The minimal polynomial of $T_j := T|_{V_j}$ is $p_j(x)$

For example, consider an idempotent transformation $T^2 = T$. Then $p_T(x) = x^2 - x = x(x - 1)$. Then $p_1 = x$ and $p_2 = x - 1$. Then, the theorem above says that $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$, and we conclude that $V_1 = \ker(T)$ and $V_2 = \text{Im}(T)$.

$$\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_T(x) \rangle \cong \mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_1(x) \rangle \times \mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_2(x) \rangle.$$

Consider the homomorphism $\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_T(x) \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_1(x) \rangle \times \mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_2(x) \rangle$ by $f(x) \mapsto (f(x) + \langle p_1(x) \rangle, f(x) + \langle p_2(x) \rangle)$. The kernel of this homomorphism is exactly $\{f(x) : p_1(x)|f(x) \text{ and } p_2(x)|f(x)\} = \{f(x) : p_T(x)|f(x)\} = \langle p_T(x) \rangle$, which is 0 in the domain.

For surjectivity, we compute the dimensions of both sides (as vector spaces). Consider $\dim(\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_T(x) \rangle)$. We may write

$$\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_T(x) \rangle = \{a_0 + \dots + a_m x^m + \langle p_T(x) \rangle \mid m = \deg(p_T(x)) - 1\}$$

Hence, a basis is $\{1, \dots, x^m\}$, which has size $m + 1 = \deg(p_T(x))$.

Then, by the same arguments, we have that $\dim(\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_1(x) \rangle) = \deg(p_1(x))$

PROP 3.7
Chinese Remainder Theorem

PROOF.

and $\dim(\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_2(x) \rangle) = \deg(p_2(x))$, and lastly $\deg(p_T) = \deg(p_1) + \deg(p_2) = \dim(\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_1(x) \rangle \times \mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_2(x) \rangle)$. \square

If M_1 is a module over R_1 , and M_2 is a module over R_2 , then $M_1 \times M_2$ is an $(R_1 \times R_2)$ module, where, for $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in R_1 \times R_2$ and $(m_1, m_2) \in M_1 \times M_2$, $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)(m_1, m_2) = (\lambda_1 m_1, \lambda_2 m_2)$. PROP 3.8

3.9 Module Decomposition

If M is a module over $R_1 \times R_2$, then there are R_i modules, M_i , for $i = 1, 2$, such that

$$M \cong M_1 \times M_2$$

We can conceptualize R_1 as an ideal of $R_1 \times R_2$, by $\{(a, 0) : a \in R_1\}$. Similarly for R_2 . Define now $M_1 = (1, 0)M$ and $M_2 = (0, 1)M$. PROOF.

Consider $m \in M$. This is $(1, 1)m$, since m is over $R_1 \times R_2$. But this is $(1, 0)m + (0, 1)m$. Then $(1, 0)m \in M_1$ and $(0, 1)m \in M_2$. We also need to show that $M_1 \cap M_2$ is trivial. If there exists m with $m = (1, 0)m_1 = (0, 1)m_2$, then by multiplying by $(1, 0)$, we get $(1, 0)m_1 = (0, 0)m_2 = 0$, so indeed $m = 0$. \square

As a corollary, we get Thm 3.8.

V is a module over $\mathbb{F}[x]/\langle p_T(x) \rangle = \mathbb{F}[x]/p_1(x) \times \mathbb{F}[x]/p_2(x)$, so V decomposes into $V_1 \oplus V_2$, where V_1 is an $\mathbb{F}[x]/p_1(x)$ module, and V_2 is an $\mathbb{F}[x]/p_2(x)$ module. PROOF.

3.10 PDT 2

If $p_T = p_1^{e_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_t^{e_t}$, where p_1, \dots, p_t are irreducible, then

$$V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_t$$

where $p_{T|_{V_i}} = p_i(x)^{e_i}$.

3.11 PDT 3

Suppose that F is algebraically closed, i.e. $p_T(x) = (x - \lambda_1)^{e_1} \cdot \dots \cdot (x - \lambda_t)^{e_t}$. Then

$$V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_t$$

where $T|_{V_i}$ has minimal polynomial $(x - \lambda_i)^{e_i}$. Importantly, if $e_1, \dots, e_t = 1$, then V_i will just act as multiplication. Hence V_i will be the eigenspace for λ_i , and T will be diagonalizable.