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0. Preliminaries

- In these notes, all sets are considered to be proper sets as in ZFC, not classes.
- Basic (at least naive) set theory knowledge is assumed. Other than that, not much knowledge is required. Knowledge of axiomatic set theory, category theory or lattice theory would be helpful. Indeed, if you are familiar with those subjects please send a pull request to [gh/howion/notes](#).

At the moment, these notes have a formal and reference-book-like approach except these grayed out notes. I plan to improve/write, either as a separate extended version or for the next version, more intuition baked in for these notes, with much more visuals, examples and geometry involved.

Resources Used

- **Algebra** by Thomas W. Hungerford
- **Fundamentals of the Theory of Groups**, translated second Russian Ed., by M.I. Kargapolov and Ju.I. Merzljakov
- **Abstract Algebra**, 3rd Ed., by David S. Dummit and Richard M. Foote

Hungerford is preferred as a primary resource whereas **Kargapolov** is used for further topics in the theory and better notation and generalization in some concepts.

Notation

- $0 \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\mathbb{N}^* := \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$.
- (m, n) denotes the **greatest common divisor** of $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$.
- \equiv_m denotes integer equivalence in modulo m .
- Cardinality of a set S is denoted with $|S|$.

Currently

- There are not many exercises,
- Proofs are mostly absent,
- There are probably typos,
- Ordering is generally good but should be improved,
- More visuals and intuition should be provided for someone with the knowledge of naive set theory.

1. Groups

Def. Group

A **group** is an ordered pair (G, \cdot) where G is a set and \cdot is a binary operation on G that satisfies:

Simply, \cdot is a (total) function from G to G . Notice that G is an any set, finite or infinite.

- **Associativity**, that is, for all $a, b, c \in G$ we have $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$

This alone defines a **semigroup**.

- **Identity**, that is, there exists $e \in G$ called **identity** (of G) such that for all $a \in G$ we have $a \cdot e = e \cdot a = a$.

Until here it defines a **monoid** where identity is two-sided, namely left and right.

- **Inverse**, that is, for each $a \in G$ there exists an element (called **inverse**) $b \in G$ such that $a \cdot b = b \cdot a = e$.

Noting that the **identity** of a group and the **inverse** of an element in that group is always unique (exercise) we will denote the inverse of an element a with a^{-1} unless it is **abelian**.

A group is called **abelian** (or **commutative**) if its elements commute, that is, if for all $a, b \in G$ we have $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$. For abelian groups, we may prefer the additive notation $+$ instead of \cdot for the binary operation and denote the inverse with $-a$ instead.

You might also sometimes want to consider the group as a triplet with identiy (G, \cdot, e) as it is not clear otherwise what is the identity explicitly.

Remarks

The definition (or axioms) given above are not minimal. For example, it's enough to just accept **right-identity** and **right-inverse** for it to be group. Using just these two, you can later prove it also holds for the **left-identity** and **left-inverse** with the help of the associative property.

Associative property by far is the most powerful property of the group. It allows you to write your expression (involving only \cdot) without any parentheses and much more.

Indeed a structure which only satisfies associative property is called a **semigroup**. A semigroup with identity is called a **monoid** and a monoid with inverses is called a **group**.

Thm. Basic Monoid Properties

If (M, \cdot) is a monoid, then

1. The identity element of M is unique.

Thm. Semigroup to Group

Let (S, \cdot) be a semigroup, then it is a group if and only if both of the following hold:

- Left-identity exists, and
- Left-inverse exists for each $s \in S$.

By symmetry, the analogous result holds for rights instead of left.

Thm. Semigroup to Group 2

Let (S, \cdot) be a semigroup, then it is a group if and only if for all $a, b \in S$ the equations

$$\begin{aligned} ax &= b \\ ya &= b \end{aligned}$$

have solutions in G .

Thm. Generalized Associative Law

Let (S, \cdot) be a semigroup and $a_i \in S$. Associative property implies that the expression $a_1 \cdot a_2 \cdot \dots \cdot a_n$ is the same no matter how the expression bracketed.

► Proof

Similarly one could also prove **Generalized Commutative Law** for the commutative property.

Thm. Basic Group Properties

Remembering any group is also a monoid and thus a semigroup, let (G, \cdot) be a group. Then:

1. Identity e is unique. The uniqueness of the identity element does not require the use of associativity.
2. For each $a \in G$, inverse of a is unique.
3. For each $a \in G$, we have $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$.
4. For all $a, b \in G$, we have $(a \cdot b)^{-1} = b^{-1} \cdot a^{-1}$. Indeed, in general, $(a_1 \cdots a_n)^{-1} = a_n^{-1} \cdots a_1^{-1}$.

► Proof

Def. Order

Let (G, \cdot) be a group and $a \in G$.

The **order of (the group) G** is denoted by $|G|$ and is the cardinality of the set G .

The **order of (the element) a** is denoted by $|a|$ and (if exists) it is the least positive integer n such that $x^n = e$. If there is no such n , we say the order is infinite.

Order of an element a is sometimes denoted with $o(a)$.

If the order of an element x (or group) is finite, we will denote it with $|x| < \infty$. Moreover, if $x^2 = x$, then x is called an **idempotent element** where e is the **trivial idempotent element**.

We say that a group is **torsion-free** if every non-identity element has infinite order. If every element of a group has finite order then we say the group is **periodic**.

If orders of a periodic group are bounded, then the least common multiple of their orders is called the **exponent** of the group. If the orders of elements of a periodic group are powers of prime p , then we call the group a p -group.

Notation. The Additive Notation

If the binary operation is written additively, which is mostly the case for abelian groups, we may write:

- 0 for the identity instead of 1 (or e for that matter).
- na instead of a^n where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Notice that operation between n and a is not the binary operation of our structure but rather “ n times a ”.

We *define* a^0 (or $0a$) as the identity element 1 or 0. Notice that, in additive notation, $0a$ is not the multiplication by the identity but rather “0 times n ” which we define to be *the identity 0*.

Thm. More Group Properties

Let G be a group, then

1. If $a^2 = e$ for all $a \in G$, then G is abelian.
2. If $|G|$ is finite and even, then it has an element of order 2.

► **Proof**

2. Group Examples

All of these groups can be considered their own field of research, so it is suggested you visit their wiki, understand the basics, and follow from there as you see fit.

Klein 4-Group

See [Wikipedia: Klein four-group](#).

The Klein 4-group can be defined by the group presentation

$$V = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^2 = (ab)^2 = e \rangle.$$

Such group is

- of order 4,
- Abelian,
- all non-identity elements have order 2,
- smallest non-cyclic group,
- isomorphic to Dihedral Group of order 4,
- isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Also note that any group of order 4 is isomorphic to either \mathbb{Z}_4 or $\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Dihedral Groups

See [Wikipedia: Dihedral group](#).

Symmetric Groups

See [Wikipedia: Dihedral group](#).

Thm. Symmetric Groups Basics

- For $n > 2$ the symmetric group S_n is nonabelian. So, S_3 is a good example of nonabelian group of order 3.

Matrix Groups

Exercise 1

Find the order of the (general linear) group $\mathrm{GL}(3, \mathbb{Z}_5)$.

In General Linear Group, matrix multiplication is the binary operation.

► Answer

The Quaternion Group

See [Wikipedia: Quaternion group](#).

The Q_p Group

Let p prime. Denote by Q_p the set:

$$\{m/n^p : m, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

or the group with the usual addition in rationals.

Def. Homomorphisms

Let (G, \cdot_G, e_G) and (H, \cdot_H, e_H) be groups.

The (total) function (or map) $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is called a **(group) homomorphism** if, for all $a, b \in G$:

$$\varphi(a \cdot_G b) = \varphi(a) \cdot_H \varphi(b)$$

Mostly, we will not be as explicit about the operations and simply write $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$.

The homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is called:

- an **monomorphism** if it is injective,
- an **epimorphism** if it is surjective,
- an **isomorphism** if it is bijective.
- an **endomorphism** if $G = H$, and
- an **automorphism** if it is an endomorphism and bijective.

Notice that if there exists an isomorphism between two groups, then basically, they have the same structure*.

(Existence of an) isomorphism between two groups G and H is denoted with $G \cong H$.

Exercise 2

Prove Q_p is *not* isomorphic to Q_r for distinct primes p and r .

► Proof

3. Homomorphisms

Def. Homomorphism

Let (G, \cdot_G) and (H, \cdot_H) be semigroups.

The (total) function (or map) $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is called a **homomorphism** if, for all $a, b \in G$:

$$\varphi(a \cdot_G b) = \varphi(a) \cdot_H \varphi(b)$$

Mostly, we will not be as explicit about the operations and simply write $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ instead.

The homomorphism φ is called:

- an **monomorphism** if it is injective,
- an **epimorphism** if it is surjective,
- an **isomorphism** if it is bijective.
- an **endomorphism** if $G = H$, and
- an **automorphism** if it is an endomorphism and bijective.

Composition of homomorphisms is again a homomorphism. Respectively, this is also the case for monomorphisms, epimorphisms, isomorphisms and automorphisms.

Example

If A is abelian, then the map $a \mapsto a^{-1}$ is an automorphism, and the map $a \mapsto a^2$ is an endomorphism.

Def. Kernel

If $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is a group homomorphism, then the **kernel** of φ is defined as

$$\text{Ker } \varphi := \{ g \in G \mid \varphi(g) = e_H \}.$$

Notation. Homomorphisms

We say semigroups G and H are **isomorphic** denoted with $G \cong H$ if there exists an isomorphism between them.

Let $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism, $g \in G$ and $A \subseteq G$. Then

- g^ϕ denotes $\phi(g)$, and

- A^ϕ denotes $\phi(A)$ called the **homomorphic (respectively monomorphic, epimorphic, ...)** **image** of A .

Thm. Basic Homomorphism Properties

Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism, then

1. $\varphi(e_G) = e_H$. This is not necessarily true for monoid homomorphisms!
2. $\varphi(g^{-1}) = \varphi(g)^{-1}$ for all $g \in G$,
3. $\varphi(g^n) = \varphi(g)^n$ for all $g \in G$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$,
4. $\text{Ker } \varphi \leq G$,
5. $\varphi(G) \leq H$

Def. Basic Kernel Properties

Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism, then

1. φ is a monomorphism if and only if $\text{Ker } \varphi = \{e_G\}$.
2. φ is an isomorphism if and only if there exists a homomorphism $\varphi^{-1} : H \rightarrow G$ such that $\varphi\varphi^{-1} = e_G$.

Thm. More Homomorphism Properties

1. A is an abelian group if and only if the map $a \mapsto a^{-1}$ is an automorphism.

► Proof

4. Subgroups

Until now we have explicitly defined and shown which multiplication is to which operator and which identity belongs to which group. From now on, these must be understood from the context. We will prefer little brevity over cumbersome notation.

Def. Subgroup

Let G be a group and non-empty $H \subseteq G$. The non-empty subset H is called a **subgroup** if H is again a group under the restriction of G 's binary operation. This implies H has the same identity as G under the same binary operation.

Equivalently, a subset $H \subseteq G$ of a group G is called a **subgroup** if

- H has the same identity as G ,
- For all $a, b \in H$, we have $ab \in H$,
- Every element $h \in H$ has an inverse.

To be more compact, *non-empty* $H \subseteq G$ is called a **subgroup** if and only if (exercise):

- For all $a, b \in H$ we have $ab^{-1} \in H$.

From now on, we will denote by $H \leq G$ that H is a subgroup of G , moreover $H < G$ if $H \neq G$. The latter is called a **proper subgroup** of G .

Any group has two subgroups called the **trivial subgroup** which consists of only the identity and the group itself.

Convention regarding to this **trivial** and **proper** notation differs from author to author — we will stick to this naming.

Example. Some Subgroups

- Under addition, $\mathbb{Z} < \mathbb{Q}_p < \mathbb{Q} < \mathbb{R} < \mathbb{C}$,
- Under addition, $\mathbb{Z} = \bigcap \mathbb{Q}_p$,
- $\mathbf{GF}(p^m) \leq \mathbf{GF}(p^n)$ if $m \mid n$ where $\mathbf{GF}(p^m)$ is the appropriate subset of the algebraic closure of $\mathbf{GF}(p)$.
- Under multiplication, $\mathbb{Z}^* < \mathbb{Q}^*, < \mathbb{R}^* < \mathbb{C}^*$,
- Under multiplication, $\mathbb{C}_p^* < \mathbb{C}_{p^2}^* < \dots < \mathbb{C}_{p^\infty}^*$,
- $\mathbb{C}_{p^\infty} = \bigcup \mathbb{C}_{p^n}$,
- $\mathbf{GF}(p^m)^* \leq \mathbf{GF}(p^n)^*$ if $m \mid n$.

- The subset A_n of all *even* permutations forms a subgroup called the **alternating group of degree n** , and $|A_n| = n!/2$.

Thm. Finite and Closed Subset

Let G be a group and S a non-empty subset of G . If S is finite and closed under the group product, then S is a subgroup of G .

So, we don't even need the inverse condition if S non-empty and finite.

► Sketch of Proof

Thm. Intersection of Subgroups

Let $\{H_i\}$ be any non-empty family of subgroups of G , then $\bigcap H_i$ is also a subgroup of G .

► Proof

Thm. Subgroups Under Multiplication

Let G be a group and $H, K \leq G$, then

- $HH = H$ and $H^{-1} = H$, thus obviously
- $HH^{-1} = H$,
- HK is a subgroup of G if and only if $HK = KH$, and

Exercise

5. Generators

Def. Generators

From now on, for a group G and a subset $A \subseteq G$, we will denote by $L(G, A)$ the set of all subgroups of G that contain A . In particular, $L(G)$ denotes the **set of all subgroups of G** .

Noting that intersection of any collection of subgroups are again a subgroup, we define for any set $M \subseteq G$, the **subgroup generated by M** , denoted $\langle M \rangle$, as the intersection of all subgroups which contain M . That is

$$\langle M \rangle := \bigcap_{H_i \in L(G, M)} H_i$$

Elements of M , or even M itself, are called the **generators** of the subgroup $\langle M \rangle$. If M is finite, then we say $\langle M \rangle$ is **finitely generated**.

From now on, when we use set builder notation, instead of $\langle \{ x_1, x_2, \dots \in X \mid \dots \} \rangle$ we will omit the parentheses and simply write $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots \mid \dots \rangle$.

An element is called a **non-generator** of a group G if it can be omitted from every generating set for G .

Generally, this definition of a generated subgroup is not really easy to work with. So equivalently...

Thm. Equivalent Generation Definition

If M is a subset of a group G , then

$$\langle M \rangle = \{ a_1^{\epsilon_1} \cdots a_k^{\epsilon_k} \mid a_i \in M, \epsilon_i = \pm 1, k = 1, 2, \dots \}.$$

Thm. Equivalent Generation Definition 2

Let G be a group and $M \subseteq G$, then

$$\langle M \rangle = \{ a_1^{n_1} \cdots a_k^{n_k} \mid a_i \in M \text{ and } k, n_i \in \mathbb{Z} \}.$$

That is, $\langle M \rangle$ consists of all finite products of $a_1^{n_1} \cdots a_k^{n_k}$.

Therefore, in particular $\langle x \rangle = \{ x^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z} \}$. We will inspect these structures in detail in the next chapter.

► Proof

Def. Join of Subgroups

Let H_i be subgroups of G , then their **join** is defined as $\langle \bigcup H_i \rangle$ or, if finitely many, as $\langle H_1, \dots, H_n \rangle$. The join of two subgroups H, K will simply be denoted as $H \vee K$.

This notation will make sense later on when we define lattices over groups.

Example. Generator Examples

- $\mathbb{Z} = \langle 1 \rangle$,
- $\mathbb{Z}_n = \langle \bar{1} \rangle$,
- $\mathbb{Q} = \left\langle \frac{1}{n} \mid n = 1, 2, \dots \right\rangle$,
- $\mathbb{Z}^* = \langle -1 \rangle$,
- $\mathbb{Q}^* = \langle -1, 2, 3, 5, 11, \dots \rangle$,

6. Cyclic Groups

This section contains important counting theorems (not just for cyclic or abelian groups); hence, it is important to be familiar with every proof in this exercise.

Def. Cyclic Group

A group H is called **cyclic group**, or simply **cyclic**, if H can be generated by a single element. That is, there exists an element $x \in H$ such that $H = \langle x \rangle = \{ x^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z} \}$. Such x is called the **generator** of H or H is **generated by x** .

Since cyclic groups are abelian (exercise), additive notation may also be used. In that case, x^n becomes nx .

Notice that the order of the element x and the group $\langle x \rangle$ are the same.

Thm. Basic Element Order Properties

Let G be any group and $a \in G$, then

In the case $|a|$ is not finite,

1. $a^k = e$ if and only if $k = 0$,
2. each a^k is distinct for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

In the case $|a| = n \in \mathbb{N}^*$,

3. n is the least positive integer such that $a^n = e$,
4. $a^k = e$ if and only if $n \mid k$,
5. $a^r = a^s$ if and only if $r \equiv_n s$,
6. for each $k \mid n$, we have $|a^k| = \frac{n}{k}$.

Exercise

Thm. Basic Cyclic Properties

Let H be a cyclic group, then

- H is also abelian. So, cyclic implies abelian!
- If x is a generator of H , then so is x^{-1} .

- If x is a generator of H , then $|H| = |x|$.

Thm. Fundamental Order Property

Let G be a group, $g \in G$, and $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $x^m = e$ and $x^n = e$, then $x^d = e$ where $d = (m, n)$.

In particular, for any m such that $x^m = e$, we have $|x|$ divides m .

► Proof

Thm. Every Subgroup of \mathbb{Z} is Also Cyclic

Noting subgroup of a cyclic is cyclic, let $(H, +) \leq (\mathbb{Z}, +)$. Then, either

- $H = \langle 0 \rangle$ which is the trivial subgroup $\{0\}$, or
- $H = \langle m \rangle$ where m is the least positive integer in H . In this case, H is infinite.

► Proof

Thm. Same Order Cyclics are Isomorphic

For any two cyclic groups $\langle x \rangle$ and $\langle y \rangle$, if their orders are the same, there exists an isomorphism $\varphi : \langle x \rangle \rightarrow \langle y \rangle$.

1. Indeed, if they are finite, then the map

$$\varphi : \langle x \rangle \rightarrow \langle y \rangle$$

$$x^k \mapsto y^k$$

is well-defined and an isomorphism. Therefore, any finite cyclic group of order n is isomorphic to the cyclic group $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_{\mathbb{Z}})$.

2. If they are infinite, then the map

$$\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \langle x \rangle$$

$$k \mapsto x^k$$

is well-defined and an isomorphism. Therefore, any infinite cyclic group is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}, +_{\mathbb{Z}})$.

► Proof

Thm. Fundamentals of Element Orders

Let G be any group, $x \in G$ and $a \in \mathbb{Z}^*$, then

1. If $|x| = \infty$, then $|x^a| = \infty$.
2. If $|x| = n$, then $|x^a| = \frac{n}{(n, a)}$.

Thm. Orders of Commutative Elements

Let G be a group and a and b elements of G whose orders are respectively m and n . If a and b commute, then

1. $(m, n) = 1 \implies |ab| = |a| |b|,$
2. There exists $g \in G$ such that $|g| = \text{lcm}(m, n).$

► Proof

Thm. On Generators of Cyclics

Let $H = \langle x \rangle$, then

1. If H is infinite, then x and x^{-1} are the only generators of H .
2. If H is finite of order n , then x^k is a generator of H , if and only if $(k, n) = 1$.

Therefore, the number of generators of H equals to $\varphi(n)$ where φ is Euler's ϕ -function.

Thm. Basic Cyclic Properties

Let $H = \langle x \rangle$ be cyclic, then

1. Every subgroup of H is also cyclic.
2. If H is infinite, then for any distinct non-negative integers a and b , $\langle x^a \rangle \neq \langle x^b \rangle$.
3. For every integer m we have $\langle x^m \rangle = \langle x^{-m} \rangle$. Therefore, every non-trivial subgroup of H ...

Thm. Homomorphisms from Cyclics

Let $G = \langle a \rangle$ be a cyclic group and H any group, then every homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ is completely determined by the element $\varphi(a) \in H$. In particular, $\text{Im } \varphi = \langle \varphi(a) \rangle$.

Obvious

Thm. Finitely Many Subgroups Imply Finite Group

Any group which has only finitely many subgroups must also be finite.

► Proof

7. Cosets and Indices

Def. Coset

Let G be a group and $H \leq G$. Then, for all $a \in G$ the set aH is called a **left coset** and the set Ha is called a **right coset**.

Def. Coset Congruence

Let G be a group, $H \leq G$, and $a, b \in G$. We say,

- a is left-congruent to b modulo H , denoted by $a \equiv_L b \pmod{H}$ when $a^{-1}b \in H$.
- a is right-congruent to b modulo H , denoted by $a \equiv_R b \pmod{H}$ when $ab^{-1} \in H$,

Thm. Coset Congruence

1. The relations \equiv_L and \equiv_R are equivalence relations.
2. The left (resp. right) equivalence class of $a \in G$ is the set aH (resp. Ha).
3. For all $a \in G$, cardinalities of the sets Ha , H and aH are the same.
4. If G is abelian, then left and right congruence coincide. Moreover, this is also possible if G is not abelian.

► Proof

Corollary. Coset Congruence

Let G be a group and $H \leq G$. Then

1. G is the union of right (respectively left) cosets of H ,
2. Two right (respectively left) cosets are either *disjoint* or *equal*,
3. Number of distinct left cosets are equal to number of distinct right cosets.

Def. Index

Wiki: Index of a subgroup

Let G be group and $H \leq G$ then the **index of H in G** , denoted $|G : H|$ is the *cardinal number* of the set of distinct right (or left) cosets of H in G .

Thm. Index Theorem

Let G be a group and $K \leq H \leq G$, then

$$|G : K| = |G : H||H : K|$$

Corollary: Lagrange's Theorem

Let G be a group and $H \leq G$, then the order of H divides the order of G . In general, even if G is infinite

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

Corollary: Element Order Divides Group Order

Let G be a group and $x \in G$, then $|x|$ divides $|G|$.

Thm. Cauchy's Theorem

Let G be a finite group of order n and p is any prime that divides n . Then G contains an element of order p .

We will prove this useful theorem later on, after Sylow Theorems.

Thm. Order of Subgroup Multiplication

Let G be group such that H and K are finite subgroups of G . Then

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

Thm. 1

Let G be a group and $H, K \leq G$. Then we have $|H : (H \cap K)| \leq |G : K|$.

If $|G : K|$ is finite, then $|H : (H \cap K)| = |G : K|$ if and only if $G = KH$.

Thm. 2

Let H and K be subgroups of finite index of a group G . Then

1. $|G : H \cap K|$ is finite,
2. $|G : H \cap K| \leq |G : H||G : K|$, and
3. $|G : H \cap K| = |G : H||G : K|$ if and only if $G = HK$.

Thm. Groups of Prime Order

Let G be a group, then the following are equivalent

1. $|G|$ is prime,
2. $G \neq \langle e \rangle$ and G has no proper subgroups,
3. $G \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ for some prime p .

Notice that (3) implies that every group of prime order is cyclic.

8. Conjugates and Normals

Def. Conjugate

Let G be a group, $H \leq G$, and $a, b \in G$, then

1. the element aba^{-1} is called **the conjugate of a by b** ,
2. the set aHa^{-1} is called **the conjugate of H by a** ,
3. the element a is said to **normalize H** if $aHa^{-1} = H$.

Note that more general definitions would use only commutativity (that is $gh = hg$) instead of inverses for semigroups.

We also say a is **conjugate to an element b by an element x** if $a = xbx^{-1}$ denoted with $a = b^x$. We further define for sets $A, B \subseteq G$, and $g \in G$

$$\begin{aligned} A^B &:= \{ a^b \mid a \in A, b \in B \} \neq BAB^{-1} \\ A^g &:= gAg^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Notice that A^B is defined as the set of elements bab^{-1} , not $ba(b')^{-1}$ for some b' .

Thm. Basic Conjugate Properties

Let G a group and $a, b, x \in G$, then

- $(ab)^x = a^x b^x$,
- $(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$,
- $a = b^x \implies |a| = |b|$.

Def. Normal

Let G be a group and N its subgroup. If for all $a \in G$ we have $aN = Na$, then N is called a **normal subgroup** (or simply a **normal**) of G denoted by $N \trianglelefteq G$.

If $N \neq G$, then $N \triangleleft G$ will also be used to denote N is a **proper normal subgroup** of G .

From now on, it should be understood from $A \trianglelefteq B$ alone that B is a group and A is its normal subgroup.

Thm. Equivalent Normal Definitions

Let G be a group and $N \trianglelefteq G$. Then the following are equivalent

1. \equiv_L and \equiv_R modulo N coincide,
2. $gN = Ng$,
3. $N^g = gNg^{-1} \subseteq N$ for all $g \in G$, that is $N^G \subseteq N$,
4. $N^g = gNg^{-1} = N$ for all $g \in G$, that is $N^G = N$.

Thm. More Normal Properties

1. Let $M, N \trianglelefteq G$. If $M \cap N = \{e\}$, then $mn = nm$ for all $m \in M$ and $n \in N$.
2. Kernel of any group homomorphism is a normal subgroup.
3. If $|G : H| = 2$, then $H \trianglelefteq G$.
4. $A, B \trianglelefteq G$ implies $AB \trianglelefteq G$.
5. Find normal subgroups A, B, C such that $A \trianglelefteq B \trianglelefteq C$, but $A \not\trianglelefteq C$.

Thm. Normal and Subgroup Properties

Recall that the “join” of two subgroup H, K denoted $H \vee K$ is the subgroup $\langle H \cup K \rangle$.

Let $N \trianglelefteq G$ and $K \leq G$, then

1. $(N \cap K) \trianglelefteq G$, so intersection of any subgroup with a normal is a normal,
2. $N \vee K = NK = KN$, so join of any subgroup with a normal is their product,
3. $N \trianglelefteq (N \vee K)$.

TODO: Revise (2) noting that we have defined the multiplication as join! Did we define that?

10. Normalizer And Centralizer

Def. Centralizer

Let G be a (sub)group and A a non-empty subset of G . Then the **centralizer of A in a group G** is defined as

$$C_G(A) := \{ g \in G \mid a^g = a \quad \forall a \in A \}$$

Beware that if we were to write $A^g = A$ to the right-hand side it wouldn't be the same definition.

Note that a more general definition would use $ga = ag$ for semigroups.

Def. Center

The **center** of a (sub)group G denoted with $Z(G)$ is defined as $Z(G) := C_G(G)$.

It is basically the set of all elements in the group that commute with all other elements in the group.

Def. Normalizer

Let G be a group and A a non-empty subset of G . Similar to centralizer (but not necessarily equivalent), the **normalizer of A in G** is defined as

$$N_G(A) = \{ g \in G \mid A^g = A \}$$

and it is also a subgroup of G .

The definitions of centralizer and normalizer are similar but not identical. If $g \in C_G(A)$ and $a \in A$, then it must be the case that $a^g = a$, but if $g \in N_G(S)$, then $a^g = a'$ for some $a' \in A$, with a' possibly different from a .

Obviously a subgroup is a normal subgroup in a group if and only if its normalizer is the whole group.

This is one reason why the notation gag^{-1} (or a^g) is preferred over $ga = ag$ — unless we are working with semigroups of course.

Thm.'

TODO: Revise, define a^G etc.

Let G be a group and $a \in G$, then

$$|a^G| = [G : N_G(a)]$$

You may check out Kargapolov p. 16 for a more general version of theorem and the proof.

Thm. Building Normal from a Subgroup

Let $A \leq G$, then the set

$$N = \bigcap_{x \in G} A^x$$

is a normal subgroup of G .

Exercise

Thm. Centralizer, Normalizer and Normals

TODO:

10. Commutators

Def. Commutator

Let G be a group and $a, b \in G$. Obviously, two elements a and b commute if and only if $a^{-1}b^{-1}ab = e$. The left-hand side of this equation will be denoted with $[a, b]$ called the **commutator** of a and b , that is

$$[a, b] := a^{-1}b^{-1}ab$$

For $A, B \subseteq G$, we define **mutual commutator subgroup** as

$$[A, B] := \langle [a, b] \mid a \in A, b \in B \rangle$$

More generally,

$$[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{n+1}] = [[a_1, \dots, a_n], a_{n+1}]$$

and

$$[A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{n+1}] = [[A_1, \dots, A_n], A_{n+1}]$$

Thm. Basic Commutator Properties

Let G be a group and $a, b, c, x \in G$. Then

- $[a, b] = e$ if and only if $ab = ba$, indeed
- e is the only commutator if and only if G is abelian,
- $[a, b]^{-1} = [b, a]$,
- $[a, b]^x = [a^x, b^x]$,
- $[ab, c] = [ac]^b[b, c]$,
- $[a^{-1}, b] = [b, a]^{a^{-1}}$,
- For any group homomorphism $\phi : G \rightarrow H$, we have $\phi([a, b]) = [\phi(a), \phi(b)]$.

The product of two or more commutators need not be a commutator. Indeed, it is known that the least order of a finite group for which there exists two commutators whose product is not a commutator is 96; in fact there are two nonisomorphic groups of order 96 with this property — See **Stack Exchange**: Mariano Suárez-Álvarez.

Def. Commutator Subgroup and Derived Series

Let G be a group. Then the **commutator subgroup** (or **derived subgroup**) of G denoted with G' or $G^{(1)}$ is the normal subgroup $[G, G]$.

Applied recursively, we get the **derived series** of the group G

$$G^{(0)} := G \trianglerighteq G' \trianglerighteq G'' \trianglerighteq G^{(3)} \trianglerighteq \dots$$

For a finite group this series terminates, to what is called a **perfect group** which may be trivial or not.

Thm. Three Commutator Lemma

Let G be a group, $A, B, C \leq G$, and $N \trianglelefteq G$. If any two commutator subgroups

$$[A, B, C], \ [B, C, A], \ [C, A, B]$$

lie in N , then so is the other one.

► Proof

Exercise

Let $A, B, C \trianglelefteq G$, then $[AB, C] = [A, C][B, C]$.

11. Quotients and Isomorphisms

Def. (Group) Congruence Relation

An equivalence relation \equiv on a group G is called a (group) **congruence relation** if for all $x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2 \in G$

$$x_1 \equiv x_2 \wedge y_1 \equiv y_2 \implies x_1y_1 \equiv x_2y_2$$

The product of two congruence classes is again a congruence class. Indeed, the set of all congruence classes G/\equiv is a group under the multiplication of classes called the **quotient group with respect to \equiv** .

Thm. Group Congruences and Normals

The congruence relations on a group G are in one-to-one correspondence with the normal subgroups of G .

Usually quotient groups in group theory are defined via normal groups but this paints a much wider picture. Following this motivation, here is the classical definition of quotient groups.

Def. Quotient Group

Let G be a group and $N \trianglelefteq G$. The set of all cosets of N in G denoted by G/N (read as G modulo N) forms a group under the binary operation

$$(aN)(bN) = (ab)N$$

and is of order $[G : N]$. This group is called the **quotient group (or factor group) of G by N** .

Notice how we are not multiplying cosets directly, but rather the elements in front of them.

Thm. Basic Quotient Properties

Let G be a group and $N \trianglelefteq G$.

1. If G is cyclic, then so is G/N .
2. G/N is abelian if and only if $[G, G] \subseteq N$.

► Proof

Def. Projection

Let $N \trianglelefteq G$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\pi : \quad G &\rightarrow \quad G/N \\ a &\mapsto \quad aN\end{aligned}$$

is an epimorphism and $\text{Ker } \pi = N$. Such π is called the **canonical epimorphism** or **(natural) projection** of G under N . Therefore, unless otherwise stated, $G \rightarrow G/N$ always denotes the natural projection.

If the group is clear from the context, we may make use of the notation π_N to denote the projection $G \rightarrow G/N$.

Exercise

Thm. Commutativity of Projection

TODO: Revise, add proof

Let π_N be the natural projection of G under N , then G/N is abelian if and only if $[G, G] \subseteq N$.

► Proof

Thm. Fundamental Theorem on Homomorphisms

Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism, $N \trianglelefteq G$, and $N \subseteq \text{Ker } \varphi \trianglelefteq G$. Then there exists an unique homomorphism $\bar{\varphi}$ where

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\varphi} : \quad G/N &\rightarrow \quad H \\ aN &\mapsto \quad \varphi(a)\end{aligned}$$

and

- $\varphi(G) = \bar{\varphi}(G/N)$,
- $\text{Ker } \bar{\varphi} = (\text{Ker } \varphi)/N$

Therefore, $\bar{\varphi}$ is an isomorphism if and only if

- φ is an epimorphism, and
- $N = \text{Ker } \varphi$.

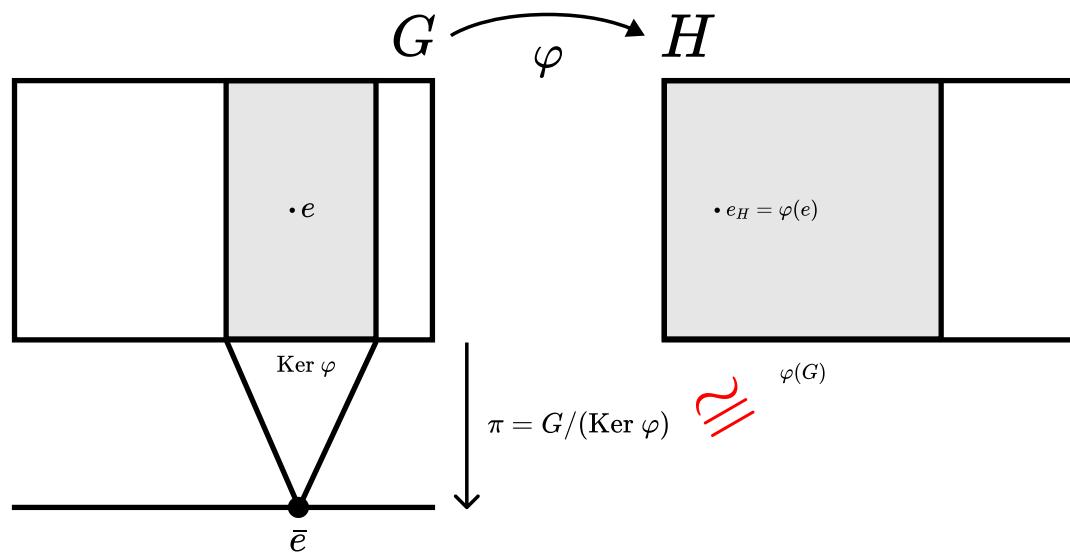
► Proof

Thm. First Isomorphism Theorem

Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism. Then

1. $\text{Ker } \varphi \trianglelefteq G$, so kernel of any group homomorphism is normal,
2. $\varphi(G) \leq H$, so image of any group homomorphism is a subgroup,
3. $\varphi(G) \cong G/(\text{Ker } \varphi)$, so if φ is an epimorphism, then $H \cong G/(\text{Ker } \varphi)$.

► Proof



(Figure 1) First Isomorphism Theorem

Thm. Second Isomorphism Theorem

This theorem is also called the **Diamond Isomorphism Theorem** or **Parallelogram Theorem** due to lattice it draws.

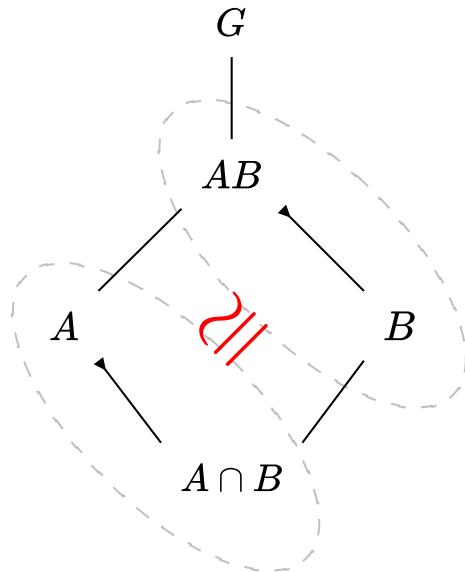
Let G be a group, $H \leq G$, and $N \trianglelefteq G$. Then

Recall that since N is normal and H is a subgroup, we have $H \vee N = HN = NH$.

1. $N \trianglelefteq HN \leq G$,
2. $H \cap N \trianglelefteq H$, and
3. $HN/N \cong H/(H \cap N)$.

TODO: (Examine) Technically, N need not to be normal in G , it suffices H to be a subgroup of $N_G(N)$.

► Proof



(Figure 2) Second Isomorphism Theorem

TODO: Redraw diagram

Thm. Third Isomorphism Theorem

Let $K \trianglelefteq H \trianglelefteq G$, then

1. $H/K \trianglelefteq G/K$, and
2. $(G/K)/(H/K) \cong G/H$.

► **Proof**

Thm. Homomorphism Induced Bijection

Recall that $L(G, A)$ was the set of all subgroups of G which contain the subset A , and $L(G) := L(G, e)$.

Let $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$ be a group homomorphism. Then φ induces a bijective map

$$\psi : L(G, \text{Ker } \varphi) \rightarrow L(H)$$

such that image of normal subgroups are normal subgroups.

TODO: Proof, omitted.

Corollary. Normal Subgroups of Quotients

Let $N \trianglelefteq G$, then every subgroup of G/N is of the form K/N where $N \subseteq K \leq G$. Moreover, $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$ if and only if $K \trianglelefteq G$.

► Sketch of Proof

12. Symmetric Groups

Def. Permutation

A **permutation** σ on a set X is a bijective function from X to X . The permutation $x \mapsto x$ will be called the **identity permutation**.

We say an element $x \in X$ is **fixed under** σ if $\sigma(x) = x$. Similarly, we say x is **moved by** σ if $\sigma(x) \neq x$.

For simplicity, we will use the set $\mathbf{I}_n = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ instead of any X of any cardinality.

More formally, we could make use of Well-Ordering Principle, initial segments, and ordinals. For now, this definition should suffice.

Def. Support

The **support** of a permutation σ denoted by $\text{supp } \sigma$ is defined as the set of elements that are moved by σ , that is

$$\text{supp } \sigma := \{i \in \mathbf{I}_n \mid \sigma(i) \neq i\}.$$

Similarly, the set of fixed elements denoted with $\text{fix } \sigma$ is the set

$$\text{fix } \sigma := \{i \in \mathbf{I}_n \mid \sigma(i) = i\}.$$

Def. Disjoint Permutations

The permutations $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$ are said to be **disjoint** if their support is disjoint.

Def. Cycle

Let τ be a permutation on \mathbf{I}_n with the support $\{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_r\}$. Then τ is said to be a **cycle** (or **cyclic**) of **length** r if

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 &\mapsto k_2 \\ k_2 &\mapsto k_3 \\ &\vdots \\ k_r &\mapsto k_1 \end{aligned}$$

denoted with $(k_1 k_2 \cdots k_r)$.

A cycle of length r will be called a **r -cycle**. A 2-cycle is called a **transposition**.

There is no widespread consensus on how to explicitly define a cycle, but the intuition should be clear.

Def. Symmetric Group

Set of all permutations (bijections) on I_n will be denoted with S_n and it forms a group under function composition (exercise) called the **symmetric group** (of n letters).

Notice that S_n is of order $n!$.

Thm. Permutations are (Unique) Product of Disjoint Cycles

Every non-identity permutation in S_n is uniquely (up to the order of the factors) a product of disjoint cycles, each of which has length at least 2.

Corollary. Order of Permutation

The order of a permutation is the least common multiple of the orders of its disjoint cycles.

Corollary. Permutations are a Product of Transpositions

Every permutation can be written as a product of (not necessarily unique) transpositions.

Def. Odd and Even

A permutation is said to be **even** (resp. **odd**) if it can be written as a product of even (resp. **odd**) number of transpositions.

Thm. Exclusively Odd or Even

A permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ where $n \geq 2$ is either even or odd, but not both.

Therefore, the **sign** of a permutation σ denoted $\text{sgn } \sigma$ is defined to be 1 if even and -1 if odd.

Thm. Alternating Group

Let A_n denote the set of all permutations of S_n . Then A_n is a normal subgroup of S_n of index 2. Moreover, A_n is the only subgroup of S_n of index 2.

A_n is called the **alternating group** (of **degree n**).

Thm. A_n is (Generally) Simple

The alternating group A_n is simple if and only if $n \neq 4$.

Lemma. 1

Let $r, s \in S_n$ where $n \geq 3$. Then A_n is generated by 3-cycles such that

$$\{ (rsk) \mid 1 \leq k \leq n, k \neq r, s \}$$

Lemma. 2

For $n \geq 3$, if $N \trianglelefteq A_n$ and N contains a 3-cycle, then $N = A_n$.

Proofs are skipped for this theorem, curious reader may checkout Hungerford (pp. 49-50).

Thm. Dihedral Group Generators

Let $n \geq 3$, then the dihedral group D_n (which is of order is $2n$) is a group whose generators a and b satisfy

1. $a^n = b^2 = e$ and $a^k \neq e$ if $0 < k < n$,
2. $aba = b$.

Moreover, for $n \geq 3$, any group G which is generated by a and b that satisfy (1) and (2) is isomorphic to D_n .

► Proof

Exercise. Generator of D_n

Let $\langle a \rangle \leq D_n$ for $a \in D_n$, and $|a| = n$. Then

1. $\langle a \rangle \trianglelefteq D_n$, and
2. $D_n / \langle a \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Thm. Center of D_n

Let Z be the center of the group D_n , then

- $Z = \langle e \rangle$ if n is odd,
- $Z \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$ if n is even.

► Proof

13. Direct Products and Direct Sums

Note that the letter I denotes any index set which mostly taken to be \mathbb{N} or non-empty initial segment of \mathbb{N} .

Def. Direct Product (of Groups)

This is equivalent to the formal definition of set of tuples from the axiomatic set theory, but for the family of groups instead of family of sets.

Let $\{G_i\}$ be a family of groups indexed by a non-empty set I , then the **direct product (or complete direct sum)** of the groups G_i denoted with $\prod_{i \in I} G_i$ is the set of all functions

$$f : I \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in I} G_i$$

such that $f(i) \in G_i$. Notice that since each G_i is a group, thus non-empty, we have $\prod G_i \neq \emptyset$.

As a mental image, think of $\prod G_i$ as the set of all (ordered) tuples where each i -th element belongs to G_i so that each $f \in \prod G_i$ represent a tuple in that set.

Thm. Direct Product of Groups

Let $\{G_i\}$ be a non-empty family of groups, then $\prod G_i$ is a group under component-wise multiplication and for each $k \in I$, the map

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_k : \prod G_i &\rightarrow G_k \\ f &\mapsto f(k)\end{aligned}$$

called the **(natural) projection(s)** of the direct product is an epimorphism of groups.

Exercise

Def. (External) Weak Direct Product

Let $\{ G_i \}$ be a non-empty family of groups, then the **(external) weak direct product** of $\{ G_i \}$ denoted with $\prod^w G_i$ is the set of all $f \in \prod G_i$ such that $f(i) = e_i$ for all but a finite number of $i \in I$.

That is, non-identiy elements of the tuple f are finite. Tuple consists of "mostly" identity elements.

Notice that if I is finite, then every direct product is a weak direct product.

Moreover, if each G_i is additive (that is abelian) $\prod^w G_i$ is called the **(external) direct sum** denoted with $\sum G_i$.

Thm. Normals and Injections

Let $\{ G_i \}$ be a family of non-empty groups, then

1. $\prod^w G_i \trianglelefteq \prod G_i$,
2. for each $k \in I$, the map

$$\begin{aligned} i_k : G_k &\rightarrow \prod^w G_i \\ a &\mapsto f = (e_1, \dots, e_{k-1}, a, e_{k+1}, \dots) \end{aligned}$$

is a monomorphism of groups,

3. for each $k \in I$, we have $i_k(G_k) \trianglelefteq \prod G_i$.

Exercise

Thm. Direct Sum and Family of Homomorphisms

Let $\{ A_i \}$ be a non-empty family of abelian groups, and B an abelian group. If $\{ \varphi_i : A_i \rightarrow B \}$ is a family of homomorphisms (with the same index set), then there exists an unique homomorphism

$$\varphi : \sum A_i \rightarrow B$$

such that $\varphi \circ i_k = \varphi_k$ for all $k \in I$. This property determines $\sum A_i$ uniquely up to isomorphism.

This theorem is false if the groups are not abelian.

Thm. Direct Sum of Normals

Let $\{ N_i \}$ be a non-empty family of normal subgroups of a group G such that

- $G = \langle \bigcup N_i \rangle$, and

- for each $k \in K$, we have $N_k \cap \left\langle \bigcup_{i \neq k} N_i \right\rangle = \langle e \rangle$.

Then

$$G \cong \prod^w N_i$$

and $\{N_i\}$ is called a **normal decomposition** of G .

Def. Internal Product

Let $\{G_i\}$ be a non-empty family of groups and $\prod G_i = G$. If $\{G_i\}$ is a normal decomposition of G , then $G = \prod G_i$ is said to be the **internal weak direct product** (or **internal direct sum** if G is abelian).

Thm. Normal Decomposition Condition

Let $\{N_i\}$ be a non-empty family of normal subgroups of G . Then, $\{N_i\}$ is a normal decomposition of G if and only if for each non-identiy $g \in G$ is the unique product

$$g = a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_n}$$

where each $i_k \in I$ is distinct and $e \neq a_{i_k} \in N_{i_k}$ for each $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Exercise

Thm. Internal Direct Sum and Family of Homomorphisms

Let $\{\varphi_i : G_i \rightarrow H_i\}$ be a family of homomorphism of groups and let

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : \prod G_i &\rightarrow \prod H_i \\ (a_i) &\mapsto (\varphi_i(a_i)) \end{aligned}$$

Then φ is a homomorphism of groups such that

$$\varphi \left(\prod^w G_i \right) \subseteq \prod^w H_i$$

and

$$\text{Ker } \varphi = \prod \text{Ker } \varphi_i$$

and

$$\text{Im } \varphi = \prod \text{Im } \varphi_i$$

Moreover, φ is a monomorphism (resp. epimorphism) if each φ_i is.

Corollary. Normals and Quotients

Let $\{ G_i \}$ be a non-empty family of groups and $\{ N_i \}$ be a non-empty family of normal subgroups (of same index) such that $N_i \trianglelefteq G_i$ for all $i \in I$. Then

1. $\prod N_i \trianglelefteq \prod G_i$ and $(\prod G_i)/(\prod N_i) \cong \prod(G_i/N_i)$,
2. $\prod^w N_i \trianglelefteq \prod^w G_i$ and $(\prod^w G_i)/(\prod^w N_i) \cong \prod^w(G_i/N_i)$

Exercise, use First Isomorphism Theorem.

A1. Appendix 1

This is not really an appendix, but rather parking space for stuff I wasn't able to locate yet.

Def. Group Action

TODO: Create a new section for this and populat it with stabilizers, orbits etc.

See [Wikipedia: Group action](#).

Let G be a group and X any set. A binary operation $\bullet : G \times X \rightarrow X$ is called a **(left) group action** if, for all $a, b \in G$ and $x \in X$:

- $a \bullet (b \bullet x) = (ab) \bullet x$, and
- $e \bullet x = x$

For establishing general properties of group actions, it suffices to consider only left actions. (TODO: Why)

Def. Maximal Subgroup

Let G be a group and let H be a proper subgroups of G . We say H is a **maximal subgroup** if $H \subseteq K$ implies $K = H$ for all $K < G$.

Simply, H is maximal if there is no greater proper subgroup which contain it.

Def. Frattini Subgroup

Let G be a group. We define **frattini subgroup** $\Phi(G)$ as the intersection of all maximal subgroups of G . In the case G has no maximal subgroups, we define $\Phi(G) = G$.

This is analogous to the Jacobson radical in the ring theory.

Thm. Frattini Subgroup and Non-Generators

The frattini subgroup $\Phi(G)$ of a group G is equal to the set of all non-generators of G . Therefore, non-generators of a group form a subgroup — namely the frattini subgroup.

Def. Simple Group

A group is said to be **simple** if it has no proper normal subgroups.

Thm. On Simple Groups

1. \mathbb{Z}_p is simple if p is prime. Does the converse holds?
-

Def. Perfect Group

Def. Locally Cyclic

A group G is said to be **locally cyclic** if every finitely generated subgroup is cyclic.

Thm. Locally Cyclic Properties

1. Every cyclic group is locally cyclic.
2. Every finitely-generated locally cyclic group is cyclic.
3. Every subgroup (and quotient group) of a locally cyclic group is locally cyclic.
4. Every homomorphic image of a locally cyclic group is locally cyclic.
5. A group is locally cyclic if and only if every pair of elements in the group generates a cyclic group.
6. A group is locally cyclic if and only if its lattice of subgroups is distributive.