

# Higher Algebra

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# 1 The Mathematical Language of Symmetry

**Definition 1.1** (Isometry). A function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is an isometry if  $\|f(x) - f(y)\| = \|x - y\|$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . i.e. preserves distances.

**Definition 1.2** (Symmetry). Let  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , a symmetry of  $F$  is a (surjective) isometry  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $T(F) = F$ .

**Properties 1.3.** Let  $S, T$  be symmetries of  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $S \cdot T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is also a symmetry of  $F$ .

**Proof.** Given  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \|STx - STy\| &= \|Tx - Ty\| && (S \text{ is an isometry}) \\ &= \|x - y\|. && (T \text{ is an isometry}) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $ST$  is an isometry. Clearly  $ST$  is surjective as both  $S$  and  $T$  are surjective. Also,

$$\begin{aligned} ST(F) &= S(F) && (T(F) = F) \\ &= F. && (S(F) = F) \end{aligned}$$

So  $ST$  is a symmetry of  $F$ .

**Properties 1.4.** If  $G =$  set of symmetries of  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $G$  satisfies:

- i) Composition is associative,  $ST(R) = S(TR)$  for all  $S, T, R \in G$ .
- ii)  $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n} \in G$  ( $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n}(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ). Also,  $\text{id}_G T = T$  and  $T \text{id}_G = T$  for all  $T \in G$ .
- iii) If  $T \in G$ , then  $T$  is bijective and  $T^{-1} \in G$ .

**Proof.** If  $Tx = Ty$ , then  $\|Tx - Ty\| = 0$ . So  $\|x - y\| = 0, x = y$ , therefore  $T$  is injective. By definition  $T$  is surjective, hence,  $T$  is bijective and therefore  $T^{-1}$  is surjective.

To prove  $T^{-1}$  is an isometry.

$$\begin{aligned} \|T^{-1}x - T^{-1}y\| &= \|TT^{-1}x - TT^{-1}y\| \\ &= \|\text{id } x - \text{id } y\| \\ &= \|x - y\|. \end{aligned}$$

To prove symmetry,  $T^{-1}F = F$ :

$$T^{-1}F = T^{-1}(T(F)) = F.$$

Thus  $T^{-1} \in G$ .

**Definition 1.5** (Group). A group is a set  $G$  equipped with a “multiplication map”  $\mu : G \times G \rightarrow G$  such that

- 1) Associativity:  $(gh)k = g(hk)$  for all  $g, h, k \in G$ .
- 2) Existence of identity: There exists  $1 \in G$  such that  $1g = g$  and  $g1 = g$  for all  $g \in G$ .

- 3) Existence of inverses:  $\forall g \in G$ , there exists  $h \in G$  such that  $gh = 1$  and  $hg = 1$ . Denoted by  $g^{-1}$ .

**Properties 1.6.** Basic facts about groups.

- “**Generalised Associativity**”. When multiplying three or more elements, the bracketing does not matter. E.g.  $(a(b(cd)))e = (ab)(c(de))$ .

**Proof.** Mathematical Induction as for matrix multiplication.

- **Cancellation Law.** If  $gh = gk$  then  $h = k$  for all  $g, h, k \in G$ .

**Proof.**  $gh = gk \implies g^{-1}(gh) = g^{-1}(gk) \implies (g^{-1}g)h = (g^{-1}g)k \implies 1h = 1k \implies h = k$ .

## 2 Matrix Groups and Subgroups

Recall  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  which represent the set of real/complex invertible  $n \times n$  matrices.

**Proposition 2.1.**  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  are groups when endowed with matrix multiplication.

**Proof.** Product of real invertible matrices is in  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

- i) matrix multiplication is associative.
- ii) identity matrix  $I_n : I_n m = m$  and  $m I_n = m$  for all  $m \in GL_n(\mathbb{R})$
- iii) if  $m \in GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  then  $m^{-1}$ .  $mm^{-1} = I$  and  $m^{-1}m = I$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** Let  $G =$  group.

- 1) Identity is unique i.e. suppose  $1, e$  are both identities then  $1 = e$ .

**Proof.**  $1 = 1 \cdot e = e$ .

- 2) Inverses are unique.

**Proof.** If  $g \in G, gh = hg = 1$  and  $gk = kg = 1$  then  $h = k$ .

- 3) For  $g, h \in G$  we have  $(gh)^{-1} = h^{-1}g^{-1}$ .

**Proof.**  $(gh)(h^{-1}g^{-1}) = gh h^{-1}g^{-1} = g1g^{-1} = gg^{-1} = 1$ . Similarly,  $(h^{-1}g^{-1})(gh) = 1$ .

**Definition 2.3** (Subgroup). Let  $G$  be a group with multiplication  $\mu$ . A subset  $H \subseteq G$  is called a subgroup of  $G$  (denoted  $H \leq G$ ) if it satisfies:

- i)  $1_G \in H$  (contains identity),
- ii) if  $g, h \in H$  then  $gh \in H$  (closed under multiplication),
- iii) if  $g \in H$  then  $g^{-1} \in H$  (closed under inverse).

**Proposition 2.4.**  $H$  is a group with the induced multiplication map  $\mu_H : H \times H \rightarrow H$  by  $\mu_H(g, h) = \mu(g, h)$ .

**Proof.** (ii) tells us that  $\mu_H$  makes sense.  $\mu_H$  is associative because  $\mu$  is.  $H$  has an identity from (i).  $H$  has inverses from (iii).

**Proposition 2.5.** Set of orthogonal matrices  $O_n(\mathbb{R}) = \{M \in GL_n(\mathbb{R}) : M^T = M^{-1}\} \leq GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  forms a group. Namely the set of symmetries of an  $n - 1$  sphere, i.e. an  $n$  dimensional circle.

**Proof.** Check axioms.

- i)  $I_n \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$
- ii) If  $M, N \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$  then  $(MN)^T = N^T M^T = N^{-1} M^{-1} = (MN)^{-1}$ , so  $MN \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$ .
- iii) If  $M \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$  then  $(M^{-1})^T = (M^T)^{-1} = (M^{-1})^{-1}$  so  $M^{-1} \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Proposition 2.6.** Basic subgroup facts.

- i) Any group  $G$  has two trivial subgroups: itself and  $1 = \{1_G\}$ .
- ii) If  $J \leq H$  and  $H \leq G$  then  $J \leq G$ .

Here are some notations. For  $g \in G$  where  $G$  is a group.

- i) If  $n$  positive integer, define  $g^n = g \cdot g \cdots g$  ( $n$  times)
- ii)  $g^0 = 1$
- iii)  $n$  positive:  $g^{-n} = (g^{-1})^n$  or  $(g^n)^{-1}$ .
- iv) For  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $g^m \cdot g^n = g^{m+n}$  and  $(g^m)^n = g^{mn}$ .

**Definition 2.7.** The order of a group  $G$ , denoted  $|G|$  is the cardinality of  $G$ . For  $g \in G$ , the order of  $g$  is the smallest positive integer  $n$  such that  $g^n = 1$ . If no such integer exists, order is  $\infty$ .

### 3 Permutation Groups

**Definition 3.1** (Permutations). Let  $S$  be a set. Let  $\text{Perm}(S)$  be the set of permutations of  $S$ . This is the set of bijections of form  $\sigma : S \rightarrow S$ .

**Proposition 3.2.**  $\text{Perm}(S)$  is a group when endowed with composition of functions.

**Proof.** Composition of bijections is a bijection. The identity is  $\text{id}_S$  and group inverse is the inverse function.

**Definition 3.3** (Symmetric Group). Let  $S = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . The symmetric group  $S_n$  is  $\text{Perm}(S)$ .

Two notations are used. With the two line notation, represent  $\sigma \in S_n$  by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \sigma(3) & \cdots & \sigma(n) \end{pmatrix}$$

( $\sigma(i)$ 's are all distinct, hence  $\sigma$  is one to one and bijective). Note this shows  $|S_n| = n!$ .

With the cyclic notation, let  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k \in S$  be distinct. We define a new permutation  $\sigma \in \text{Perm}(S)$  by  $\sigma(s_i) = s_{i+1}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ,  $\sigma(s_k) = \sigma(s_1)$  and  $\sigma(s) = s$  for  $s \notin \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k\}$ . Denoted  $(s_1 s_2 \dots s_k)$  and called a  $k$ -cycle.

**Example 3.4.** For  $n = 4$ ,

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \in S_4 \quad \text{means} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \sigma(1) = 2, & \sigma(2) = 3 \\ \sigma(3) = 1, & \sigma(4) = 4. \end{array}$$

In cyclic notation this is  $(123)(4)$  or  $(123)$  where the cycle is  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$ .

Note that a 1-cycle is the identity and the order of a  $k$ -cycle is  $k$ . So  $\sigma^k = 1$  and  $\sigma^{-1} = \sigma^{k-1}$ .

**Definition 3.5** (Disjoint Cycles). Cycles  $s_1 \dots s_k$  and  $t_1 \dots t_k$  are disjoint if  $\{s_1, \dots, s_k\} \cup \{t_1, \dots, t_k\} = \emptyset$ .

**Definition 3.6** (Commutativity). In any group, two elements  $g, h$  commute if  $gh = hg$ .

**Proposition 3.7.** Disjoint cycles commute.

**Proposition 3.8.** Any permutation  $\sigma$  of a finite set  $S$  is a product of disjoint cycles.

**Example 3.9.**  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 1 & 5 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in S_6$  does  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$ ,  $3 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 3$  and  $5 \rightarrow 5$ .  
Thus  $\sigma = (124)(36)$  since  $(5)$  is the identity.

**Proposition 3.10.** Let  $\sigma$  be a permutation of a finite set  $S$ . Then  $S$  is a disjoint union of subsets, say  $S_1, \dots, S_r$ , such that  $\sigma$  permutes the elements of each  $S_i$  cyclically.

**Definition 3.11** (Transposition). A transposition is a 2-cycle i.e.  $(ab)$ .

**Proposition 3.12.** i) The  $k$ -cycle  $(s_1 s_2 \dots s_k) = (s_1 s_k)(s_1 s_{k-1}) \dots (s_1 s_3)(s_1 s_2)$

**Example 3.13.**  $(3625) = (35)(32)(36) = (36)(62)(25)$

**Proof.** The RHS produces the mapping below which is equivalent to the LHS.

$$\begin{array}{l} s_1 \rightarrow s_2 \\ s_2 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_3 \\ s_3 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_4 \\ \vdots \\ s_{k-1} \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_k \\ s_k \rightarrow s_1. \end{array}$$

ii) Any permutations in  $S_n$  is a product of transpositions.

**Proof.** We can write any  $\sigma \in S_n$  as product of (disjoint) cycles. By part i), each cycle is a product of transpositions. So we can write  $\sigma$  as product of transpositions.

## 4 Generators and Dihedral Groups

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $\{H_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a (non-empty) collection of subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \leq G$ .

**Proof.**

- 1) Why is  $1 \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ ? Because  $1 \in H_i$  for all  $i$ .
- 2) Closed under multiplication? If  $g, h \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ , then  $g, h \in H_i$  for all  $i \implies gh \in H_i$  for all  $i \implies gh \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ .
- 3) Closed under taking inverse? If  $g \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$  then  $g \in H_i$  for all  $i$  as  $H_i$  are subgroups, every element has an inverse. So an inverse exists for all elements in  $H_i$  for all  $i$ .

**Proposition - Definition 4.2.** Let  $G$  be a group and  $S \subseteq G$ . Let  $\mathcal{J}$  be the set of subgroups  $J \leq G$  containing  $S$ .

- i) [Definition] The subgroup generated by  $S$ ,  $\langle S \rangle$  is  $\bigcap J \in \mathcal{J} \leq J \leq G$ . i.e. it's the intersection of all subgroups of  $G$  containing  $S$ .

**Proof.** Lemma 4.1 implies  $\langle S \rangle$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

- ii) [Proposition]  $\langle S \rangle$  is the set of elements of the form  $g = s_1 s_2 \dots s_n$  where  $n \geq 0$  and  $s_i \in S \cup S^{-1}$ . Define  $g = 1$  when  $n = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $H = \{s_1 \dots s_n : s_i \in S \cup S^{-1}\}$ . First,  $H \subseteq \langle S \rangle$ . Need to prove that  $s_i \dots s_n \in$  every  $J$ . Each  $s_i \in J$  because  $s_i = s$  or  $s^{-1}$  for some  $s \in S \leq J$  and  $J$  closed under inversion. Therefore,  $s_1 \dots s_n \in J$  by closure under multiplication. Hence  $s_1 \dots s_n \in \bigcap_{J \in \mathcal{J}} J = \langle S \rangle$ .

Second,  $\langle S \rangle \subseteq H$ . Need to prove  $H$  is a subgroup containing  $S$ . Closure under multiplication:  $(s_1 \dots s_n)(t_1 \dots t_m) = s_1 \dots s_n t_1 \dots t_m$  also closure under inversion:  $(s_1 \dots s_n)^{-1} = s_1^{-1} \dots s_n^{-1} \in H$  since  $s_i^{-1} \in S$  for all  $i$ . Identity:  $s, s^{-1} \in S \neq \emptyset \implies ss^{-1} = 1 \in H$ .

**Definition 4.3** (Finitely Generated). A group  $G$  is finitely generated  $f.g.$  if  $G = \langle S \rangle$  for a finite subset  $S \subseteq G$ .  $G$  is cyclic if we can take  $|S| = 1$ .

**Example 4.4.** Take  $G \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  with  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) & -\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Find the subgroup generated by  $\{\sigma, \tau\}$ .

Notice both  $\sigma, \tau$  are symmetries of any  $n$ -gon. Any element of  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$  has form

$$\sigma^{i_1} \tau^{j_1} \sigma^{i_2} \tau^{j_2} \dots \sigma^{i_r} \tau^{j_r} \quad \text{for } i_1, \dots, i_r, j_1, \dots, j_r \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

We have relations:  $\sigma^n = 1, \tau^2 = 1$  and  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} = \sigma^{-1}$ . We use these relations to push all  $\sigma$ 's to the left and all  $\tau$ 's to the right to achieve the form  $\sigma^i \tau^j$  where  $0 \leq i < n$  and  $j = 0, 1$ .

**Proposition - Definition 4.5.**  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle =$  dihedral group of  $2n$ , denoted  $D_n$  (sometimes  $D_{2n}$ ).

$$D_n = \{1, \sigma, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}, \tau, \sigma\tau, \sigma^2\tau, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\tau\} \text{ and } |D_n| = 2n.$$

**Proof.** Need to show  $2n$  elements are all distinct.  $\det(\sigma^i) = 1$  (because  $\det(\sigma) = 1$ ),  $\det(\tau) = -1$  and  $\det(\sigma^i \tau) = -1$ . We conclude,  $\{1, \sigma, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\} \cap \{\tau, \sigma\tau, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\tau\} = \emptyset$  because  $\sigma^k = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) & -\sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) \end{pmatrix}$  are distinct. If  $\sigma^i \tau = \sigma^j \tau$  then  $\sigma^i = \sigma^j$  then  $i = j$ .

## 5 Alternating and Abelian Groups

**Definition 5.1** (Symmetric Functions). Let  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a function of  $n$  variables. Let  $\sigma \in S_n$ . We define function  $(\sigma f)(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)})$ . We say that  $f$  is symmetric if  $\sigma f = f$  for all  $\sigma \in S_n$ .

**Example 5.2.** Suppose  $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^3 x_2^2 x_3$  and  $\sigma = (12)$  then  $\sigma f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_2^3 x_1^2 x_3$ . Not symmetric because  $x_1^3 x_2^2 x_3 \neq x_2^3 x_1^2 x_3$ . But  $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 x_2^2$  is symmetric in two variables.

**Definition 5.3** (Difference Product). The difference product in  $(n$  variables) is

$$\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j).$$

**Lemma 5.4.** Let  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a function in  $n$  variables. Let  $\sigma, \tau \in S_n$ , then  $(\sigma\tau) \cdot f = \sigma \cdot (\tau f)$ .

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma \cdot (\tau f))(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= (\tau f)(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)}) && \text{(by definition)} \\ &= f(y_{\tau(1)}, \dots, y_{\tau(n)}) && \text{(where } y_i = x_{\sigma(i)}) \\ &= f(x_{\sigma(\tau(1))}, \dots, x_{\sigma(\tau(n))}) \\ &= f(x_{(\sigma\tau)(1)}, \dots, x_{(\sigma\tau)(n)}) \\ &= ((\sigma\tau) \cdot f)(x_1, \dots, x_n). \end{aligned}$$

Note, the second and third step follows because  $x_{\sigma(1)}$  is not necessarily  $x_1$ , so  $\tau$  is applied to  $x_1$  first, then  $\sigma$  can be applied.

**Proposition - Definition 5.5.** For  $\sigma \in S_n$  write  $\sigma = \tau_1 \tau_2 \dots \tau_m$  where  $\tau_i$  are transpositions. Then

$$\sigma \cdot \Delta = \begin{cases} \Delta & \text{if } m \text{ even (call } \sigma \text{ an even permutation)} \\ -\Delta & \text{if } m \text{ odd (call } \sigma \text{ an odd permutation)} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Sufficient to prove for a single transposition (i.e.  $m = 1$ ) because by the above Lemma,

$$\sigma \Delta = \tau_1(\tau_2 \dots (\tau_{m-1}(\tau_m \Delta)) \dots) = \tau_1((-1)^{m-1} \Delta) = (-1)^m \Delta.$$

Let's assume  $\sigma = (ij), i < j$ . There are 3 cases:

- i)  $x_i - x_j \implies x_j - x_i$  (factor of -1).
- ii)  $x_r - x_s$  where  $i, j, r, s$  all distinct  $\implies x_r - x_s$  (factor of +1).
- iii)  $x_r - x_s$  where one of  $r, s$  is equal to  $i$  or  $j$ . There are several subcases:
  - (a)  $r < i < j$ :  $x_r - x_i \implies x_r - x_j$  but also  $x_r - x_j \implies x_r - x_i$ , no change (factor of +1).

- (b)  $i < r < j$ :  $(x_i - x_r)(x_r - x_j) \implies (x_j - x_r)(x_r - x_i)$  (factor of  $+1$ ).
- (c)  $i < j < r$ : similar to (a) (factor of  $+1$ ).

So only change in i). Multiplying the three cases together yields  $\sigma \cdot \Delta = -\Delta$ .

**Corollary - Definition 5.6** (Alternating Group). The alternating group (on  $n$  symbols) is

$$A_n = \{\sigma \in S_n : \sigma \text{ is even}\}.$$

This is a subgroup of  $S_n$ . Also  $A_n$  is generated by  $\{\tau_1\tau_2 : \tau_1, \tau_2 \text{ are transposition}\}$ .

**Example 5.7.**  $A_3 = \{1, (123), (132)\}$ ,  $S_3 \setminus A_3 = \{(12), (13), (23)\}$ .  $|A_n| = n!/2$  except for  $n = 1$ ,  $A_1 = S_1 = \{1\}$ .

**Definition 5.8** (Abelian Group). A group  $G$  is abelian if any two elements commute.

In abelian groups, often switch to additive notation:

- i) product  $gh \implies g + h$
- ii) identity  $1 \implies 0$
- iii) power  $g^n \implies ng$
- iv) inverse  $g^{-1} \implies -g$

This notation follows from  $\mathbb{Z}$  endowed with addition which forms an abelian group.

## 6 Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem

Let  $H \leq G$  be a subgroup. This will apply to all statements in this section unless mentioned otherwise.

**Definition 6.1** (Coset). A left coset of  $H$  in  $G$  is a set of the form  $gH = \{gh : h \in H\} \subseteq G$  for some  $g \in G$ . The set of left cosets is denoted by  $G/H$ .

**Example 6.2.** Let  $H = A_n \leq S_n = G$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $\tau$  be any transposition. We claim that  $\tau A_n = \{\text{odd permutations}\}$ .

$\subseteq$  :  $\tau A_n = \{\tau\sigma : \sigma \text{ even}\}$ , they are all odd.

$\supseteq$  : Suppose  $\sigma$  is odd, then  $\sigma = \tau \cdot (\tau^{-1}\sigma) \in \tau A_n$ .

**Theorem 6.3.** Define a relation on  $G$  :  $g \equiv g'$  if and only if  $g \in g'H$ . Then  $\equiv$  is an equivalence relation, the equivalence classes are the left cosets. Therefore  $G = \bigcup_{i \in I} g_i H$  (disjoint union).

**Proof.**

- i) Reflexive. i.e.  $g \in gH$  for all  $g \in G$ . True because  $1 \in H$ .
- ii) Symmetry. Suppose  $g \in g'H$ , need to prove  $g' \in gH$ . Since  $g \in g'H$  we have  $g = g'h$  for some  $h \in H$ .  $g' = gh^{-1}$  so  $g' \in gH$  (as  $h^{-1} \in H$ ).
- iii) Transitivity. Suppose  $g \in g'H$  and  $g' \in g''H$ . Then  $g = g'h$  and  $g' = g''h'$  for  $h, h' \in H$ .



Therefore  $g = (g''h)h = g''(h'h) \in g''H$  from associativity and  $h'h \in H$ .

Thus  $\equiv$  is an equivalence relation and  $G$  is a disjoint union of equivalence classes.

Note  $1H = H$  is always a coset of  $G$  and the coset containing  $g \in G$  is  $gH$ .

**Example 6.4.**  $H = A_n \leq S_n = G$  cosets are exactly  $S_n$  and  $\tau S_n$  where  $S_n = A_n \dot{\bigcup} \tau A_n$ .

**Definition 6.5** (Index). The index of  $H$  in  $G$  is the number of left cosets, i.e.  $|G/H|$ . Denoted by  $[G : H]$ .

**Lemma 6.6.** Let  $g \in G$ . Then  $H$  and  $gH$  have the same cardinality.

**Proof.** Bijection,  $H \rightarrow gH, h \mapsto gh$ . Surjective and injective (multiply on left by  $g^{-1}$ ).

**Theorem 6.7** (Lagrange's Theorem). Assume  $G$  finite. Then  $|G| = |H|[G : H]$  i.e.  $|G/H| = |G|/|H|$ .

**Proof.** Using Lemma 6.6, we have:

$$G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{[G:H]} g_i H \quad (\text{disjoint union}) \implies |G| = \sum_{i=1}^{[G:H]} |g_i H| = \sum_{i=1}^{[G:H]} |H| = [G : H]|H|.$$

**Example 6.8.**  $A_n \leq S_n$ .  $[S_n : A_n] = 2 \implies |S_n| = 2|A_n| \implies n! = 2 * n!/2$ .

All above statements hold for right cosets which have form  $Hg = \{hg : h \in H\}$  denoted  $H \backslash G$ . The number of left cosets are equal the number of right cosets.

## 7 Normal Subgroups and Quotient Groups

Let  $G$  = group and  $J, K \subseteq G$ . Define the subset product  $JK = \{jk : j \in J, k \in K\}$ .

**Proposition 7.1.** Let  $G$  = group.

- i) If  $J' \subseteq J \subseteq G$  and  $K \subseteq G$  then  $KJ' \subseteq KJ$ .
- ii) If  $H \leq G$ , then  $HH = H (= H^2)$ .
- iii) For  $J, K, L \subseteq G$  then  $(JK)L = J(KL) = \{jkl : j \in J, k \in K, \ell \in L\}$

**Proposition - Definition 7.2** (Normal Subgroup). Let  $N \leq G$ . We say  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  and write  $N \trianglelefteq G$  if any of the following equivalent conditions hold:

- i)  $gN = Ng$  for all  $g \in G$ .
- ii)  $g^{-1}Ng = N$  for all  $g \in G$ .
- iii)  $g^{-1}Ng \subseteq N$  for all  $g \in G$

**Proof.** (i)  $\iff$  (ii), multiply both sides on the left by  $g^{-1}$ . (ii)  $\implies$  (iii) by definition. (iii)  $\implies$  (ii), assume  $g^{-1}Ng \subseteq N$  for all  $g \in G$ , apply this with  $g^{-1} : (g^{-1})Ng^{-1} \subseteq N \implies N \subseteq g^{-1}Ng$ . Therefore  $g^{-1}Ng = N$ .

**Theorem - Definition 7.3** (Quotient Group). Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then subset product is a well-defined multiplication map on  $G/N$  which makes  $G/N$  into a group, called the quotient group. Also:

- i)  $(gN)(g'N) = (gg')N$
- ii)  $1_{G/N} = N$
- iii)  $(gN)^{-1} = g^{-1}N$ .

**Proof.** Why is this well-defined? Why is the product of 2 cosets another coset?

Take cosets  $gN = \{g\}N$  and  $g'N$ . Calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
 (gN)(g'N) &= g(Ng')N && \text{(associative)} \\
 &= g(g'N)N && (N \trianglelefteq G) \\
 &= (gg')(NN) && \text{(associative)} \\
 &= gg'N && (N^2 = N)
 \end{aligned}$$

This is a coset. Also proves (i). For (ii),  $(gN)N = g(NN) = gN \implies N(gN) = (Ng)N = (gN)N = gN$ ,  $N$  is an identity. For (iii),  $(g^{-1}N)(gN) = g^{-1}(Ng)N = g^{-1}(gN)N = (g^{-1}g)(NN) = 1 \cdot N = N$ .

## 8 Group Homomorphisms

**Definition 8.1** (Homomorphism). Given groups  $G, H$ . A function  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  is a homomorphism of groups if  $\phi(hh') = \phi(h)\phi(h')$  for all  $h, h' \in H$ .

**Proposition - Definition 8.2** (Isomorphisms and Automorphisms). Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism. The following are equivalent:

- There exists a group homomorphism,  $\psi : G \rightarrow H$  such that  $\psi\phi = \text{id}_H$  and  $\phi\psi = \text{id}_G$
- $\phi$  is bijective.

We call  $\phi$  is a group isomorphism. If  $H = G$ ,  $\phi$  is an automorphism.

**Proposition 8.3.** If  $\phi : H \rightarrow G, \psi : K \rightarrow H$  are group homomorphism then  $\phi \cdot \psi : K \rightarrow G$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof.**  $(\phi \cdot \psi)(kk') = \phi(\psi(kk')) = \phi(\psi(k)\psi(k')) = \phi(\psi(k))\phi(\psi(k'))$

**Proposition 8.4.** Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism.

- i)  $\phi(1_H) = 1_G$ .
- ii)  $\phi(h^{-1}) = \phi(h)^{-1}$  for all  $h \in H$ .
- iii) if  $H' \leq H$  then  $\phi(H') \leq G$ .

**Proposition - Definition 8.5.** Let  $G$  be a group with  $g \in G$ . Conjugation by  $g$  is the map  $C_g : G \rightarrow G; h \mapsto ghg^{-1}$ . Then  $C_g$  is an automorphism with inverse  $C_{g^{-1}}$ .

**Proof.**  $C_g$  is a homomorphism:  $C_g(h_1h_2) = C_g(h_1)C_g(h_2)$ . Check:  $C_g(h_1h_2) = gh_1h_2g^{-1} = gh_1g^{-1}gh_2g^{-1} = C_g(h_1)C_g(h_2)$ . Now check  $C_{g^{-1}}$  is an inverse.  $C_{g^{-1}}(C_g(h)) = C_{g^{-1}}(ghg^{-1}) = g^{-1}ghg^{-1}g = h$ . Similarly  $C_g(C_{g^{-1}}(h)) = h$ , therefore  $(C_g)^{-1} = C_{g^{-1}}$ .

**Corollary - Definition 8.6.** For  $H \leq G$ , a conjugate of  $H$  (in  $G$ ) is a subgroup of  $G$  of the form  $gHg^{-1} := c_g(H)$ .

**Definition 8.7** (Epimorphism and Monomorphism). Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism.  $\phi$  is an epimorphism if  $\phi$  is surjective.  $\phi$  is a monomorphism if  $\phi$  is injective.

**Example 8.8.** Linear map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  where  $V$  and  $W$  are vector spaces. Suppose  $T$  is a projection onto some subspace. What does  $T^{-1}(w) = \{v \in V : T(v) = w\}$  looks like, for a given  $w \in W$ ?

If  $w \in L$ ,  $T^{-1}(w) = \emptyset$

If  $w \in L$ ,  $T^{-1}(w) =$  plane containing  $w$ , orthogonal to  $L = w + K$  where  $K = \text{kernel of } T = T^{-1}(0)$ .

**Definition 8.9.** Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism. The kernel of  $\phi$  is

$$\ker \phi = \phi^{-1}(1_G) = \{h \in H : \phi(h) = 1_G\}$$

**Proposition 8.10.** Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism.

i) If  $G' \leq G$  then  $\phi^{-1}(G') \leq H$ .

ii) If  $G' \trianglelefteq G$  then  $\phi^{-1}(G') \trianglelefteq H$ .

**Proof.** (Normality) Given  $h \in \phi^{-1}(G')$  and  $g \in H$ . We need to prove  $ghg^{-1} \in \phi^{-1}(G') \implies \phi(ghg^{-1}) \in G' \implies \phi(g)\phi(h)\phi(g)^{-1} \in G'$  true because  $\phi(h) \in G'$  and  $G' \trianglelefteq G$ .

iii)  $K = \ker \phi \trianglelefteq H$ .

**Proof.** Follows from (ii) because  $K = \phi^{-1}(\{1\})$  and  $\{1\} \trianglelefteq G$ .

iv) The non-empty fibres of  $\phi$ , i.e.  $\phi^{-1}(g)$  for all  $g \in G$ , are exactly the cosets of  $K$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $g \in G$ , consider  $\phi^{-1}(g)$ . Assume  $\phi^{-1}(g) \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $h \in \phi^{-1}(g)$ .

**Claim.**  $\phi^{-1}(g) = hK$ .

**Proof.**  $hK \subseteq \phi^{-1}(g)$  because  $\phi(hK) = \phi(h)\phi(K) = g \cdot 1 = g$ .

**Converse:**  $\phi^{-1}(g) \subseteq hK$ . Let  $h' \in \phi^{-1}(g)$ . Then  $\phi(h') = g$ , also  $\phi(h) = g$ . Therefore  $\phi(h'h^{-1}) = \phi(gg^{-1}) = \phi(1) = 1$ . So  $h'h^{-1} \in K$ ,  $h' \in Kh = hK$ , thus  $\phi^{-1}(g) = hK$ .

v)  $\phi$  is one to one if and only if  $K = \{1\}$ .

**Proof.** ( $\implies$ ) trivial. ( $\impliedby$ ) Assume  $K = \{1\}$ . By part (iv) fibres  $\phi^{-1}(g)$  are cosets of  $\{1\}$  hence contain single element.

**Proposition - Definition 8.11.** Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . The quotient monomorphism (of  $G$  by  $N$ ) is the map  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N; g \mapsto gN$ . Its an epimorphism with kernel  $N$ .

## 9 First Group Isomorphism Theorem

**Theorem 9.1.** Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N$  be quotient map. Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism such that  $N \leq \ker \phi$ .

- i) If  $g, g' \in G$  lie in the same coset of  $N$ , i.e.  $gN = g'N$ , then  $\phi(g) = \phi(g')$ .
- ii) The map  $\psi : G/N \rightarrow H; gN \mapsto \phi(g)$  is a homomorphism (the induced homomorphism).
- iii)  $\psi$  is the unique homomorphism  $G/N \rightarrow H$  such that  $\phi = \psi \circ \pi$ .
- iv)  $\ker \psi = (\ker \phi)/N = \{gN : g \in \ker \phi\}$ .

**Lemma 9.2** (Universal Property of Quotient Morphism). If  $N \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$  then  $N = m\mathbb{Z}$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof.** If  $N = 0 (= \{0\})$  then can take  $m = 0$ . Suppose  $N \neq 0$ . Must contain at least one nonzero element. Take  $m =$  smallest positive element in  $N$ .  $m\mathbb{Z} \subseteq N$  easy.  $N \subseteq m\mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $n \in N$ , we write  $n = mq + r$  where  $0 \leq r < m$ . We know  $n \in N, mq \in N$ . Therefore  $r = n - mq \in N$  but  $r < m \implies r = 0$ . Thus,  $n = mq \in m\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 9.3.** Let  $H = \langle h \rangle$  be a cyclic group. Then there exists an isomorphism:  $\phi : \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$  where  $m$  is the order of  $h$  if this is finite and 0 if  $h$  has infinite order.

**Proof.** Define  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H; i \mapsto h^i$ .  $\phi$  is an epimorphism (because  $h^{i+j} = h^i \cdot h^j$  and  $H = \langle h \rangle$  gives surjective.) Let  $N = \ker \phi$ . By lemma,  $N = m\mathbb{Z}$  for some  $m \geq 0$ . Apply Universal Property Theorem, gives  $\psi : \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$ .  $\psi$  surjective because  $\phi$  is surjective. Injective if  $i + m\mathbb{Z} \in \ker \psi$ , then  $\phi(i) = 1 \in H$  so  $i \in \ker \phi = N = m\mathbb{Z}$ . So  $H \cong \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Check  $m$  gives correct order.

**Theorem 9.4** (First isomorphism Theorem). Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism. The isomorphism  $\pi$  given by  $G \rightarrow H$  induces  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow H$  (by Universal Property) induces  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \text{Im } \phi$ .

## 10 Second and Third Isomorphism Theorems

**Proposition 10.1** (Subgroups of Quotient Groups). Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map.

- i) If  $N \leq H \leq G$  then  $N \leq H$ .
- ii) There is a bijection between subgroups  $H \leq G$  that contain  $N$  and subgroups  $\bar{H} \leq G/N$ .  $H \mapsto \pi(H) = \{nH : h \in H\} = H/N$  and  $\bar{H} \mapsto \pi^{-1}(\bar{H})$ .

**Proof.** Images and image images of subgroups are subgroups. If  $\bar{H} \leq G/N$ , then  $\pi^{-1}(\bar{H})$  contains  $N$  (because  $1_{G/N} \in \bar{H}$ ). Surjective:  $\pi(\pi^{-1}(\bar{H})) = \bar{H}$  because  $\pi$  surjective. Injective: If  $\pi(H_1) = \pi(H_2)$  then  $H_1 = H_2$ . This follows from  $H_1 = \cup_{g \in H_1} gN$  (disjoint union of cosets).

- iii) Normal subgroups correspond i.e.  $H \trianglelefteq G$  iff  $\bar{H} \trianglelefteq G/N$ .

**Theorem 10.2** (Second Isomorphism Theorem). Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq H \leq G$ . Then  $\frac{G/N}{H/N} \cong G/H$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\pi_N, \pi_{H/N}$  are both onto,  $\phi = \pi_{H/N} \circ \pi_N$  is also onto.  $\ker(\phi) = \{g \in G : \pi_N(g) \in \ker(\pi_{H/N} : G/N \rightarrow \frac{G/N}{H/N})\} = \{g \in G : \pi_N(g) \in H/N\} = \pi^{-1}(H/N) = H$  by Proposition 10.1. First

Isomorphism Theorem says  $G/\ker(\phi) \cong \text{Im}(\phi) \implies G/N \cong \frac{G/N}{H/N}$  which proves the theorem.

**Theorem 10.3.** Suppose  $H \leq G, N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then

i)  $H \cap N \trianglelefteq H, HN \leq G$ .

ii)  $\frac{H}{H \cap N} \cong \frac{HN}{N}$ .

## 11 Products of Groups

Recall given groups  $G_1, \dots, G_n$ , the set  $G_1 \times G_2 \times \dots \times G_n = \{(g_1, \dots, g_n) : g_1 \in G_1, \dots, g_n \in G_n\}$ . More generally if  $G_i, i \in I$  are groups then  $\prod_{i \in I} G_i = \{(g_i)_{i \in I} : g_i \in G_i\}$ .

**Proposition - Definition 11.1** (Product). The set  $\prod_{i \in I} G_i$  is called the (direct) product of the  $G_i$ 's, it is a group when endowed with co-ordinatewise multiplication.  $(g_i)(g'_i) = (g_i g'_i)$

i)  $1_G = (1_{G_i}) = (1_{G_1}, 1_{G_2}, 1_{G_3}, \dots)$

ii)  $(g_i)^{-1} = (g_i^{-1})$

**Example 11.2.** Consider  $\mathbb{Z}^2 = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ .  $(a, b) + (a', b') = (a + a', b + b')$ , group law in each coordinate.  $\mathbb{Z}^2 = \langle (1, 0), (0, 1) \rangle$  is finitely generated.

**Proposition 11.3** (Canonical Injections and Projections). Let  $G_i, i \in I$  be groups and  $r \in I$ .

i) The canonical injection  $\iota_r : G_n \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} G_i; g \mapsto (g_i)_{i \in I}$  where  $g_i = 1$  if  $i \neq r$  or  $g_i = g$  if  $i = r$ .

ii) The canonical project  $\pi_r : \prod_{i \in I} G_i \rightarrow G_r; (g_i)_{i \in I} \mapsto g_r$ .

iii)  $\frac{G_1 \times G_2}{G_1 \times \{1\}} \cong G_2$  (Note:  $G_n \times \{1\} \trianglelefteq G_1 \times G_2$ ).

**Proof.**  $\pi_2 : G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G_2$ . Apply First Isomorphism Theorem

**Proposition 11.4** (Internal Characterisation of Product). Let  $G_1, \dots, G_n \leq G$ . Assume  $G = \langle G_1, \dots, G_n \rangle$ . Assume:

i) If  $i \neq j$  then elements of  $G_i$  and  $G_j$  commute

ii) For any  $i, G_i \cap \langle U_{\ell \neq i} G_\ell \rangle = 1$ .

Then there is an isomorphism  $\phi : G_1 \times \dots \times G_n \rightarrow G; (g_1, \dots, g_n) \mapsto g_1 g_2 \dots g_n$ .

**Proof.** Check homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi((g_1, \dots, g_n)(h_1, \dots, h_n)) &= \phi((g_1 h_1, \dots, g_n h_n)) \\ &= g_1 h_1 g_2 h_2 \dots g_n h_n \\ &= g_1 \dots g_n h_1 \dots h_n && \text{(using (i))} \\ &= \phi(g_1 \dots g_n) \phi(h_1 \dots h_n) \end{aligned}$$

Surjective? Yes because  $G$  is generated by  $G_1, \dots, G_n$ . Injective? Suppose  $\phi((g_1, \dots, g_n)) = 1$ , then

$g_1 \cdots g_n = 1 \implies g_1^{-1} \in G_1 = \langle g_2 \cdots g_n \rangle$  by (ii) must be id. So  $g_1 = 1$  and  $g_2 \cdots g_n = 1$ . Repeat the same argument to get all  $g_i = 1$ .

**Corollary 11.5.** Let  $G$  be finite group of exponent 2. i.e. LCM of all orders of group element is 2. Then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof.**  $G$  is finitely generated. Choose minimal generating set  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ , each  $\langle g_i \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ . Want to prove that  $G \cong \langle g_1 \rangle \times \cdots \langle g_n \rangle$ . Condition (i): Need  $g_i g_j = g_j g_i$  for  $i \neq j$ .  $\text{ord}(g_i g_j) = 2$ , so  $g_i g_j g_i g_j = 1 \implies g_i g_j = g_j^{-1} g_i^{-1} = g_j g_i$ . Condition (ii): e.g.  $\langle g_1 \rangle \cap \langle g_2, \dots, g_n \rangle = \{1\}$ . If false, then  $g_1 \in \langle g_2, \dots, g_n \rangle$  but then our generating set is not minimal. By proposition  $G \cong \langle g_1 \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle g_n \rangle$ .

**Theorem 11.6.** Let  $G$  be a finitely generated abelian group. Then  $G \cong$  product of cyclic groups. In fact  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/h_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/g_2\mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}/h_n\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}^s$  where  $h_1 \mid h_2 \mid h_3 \mid \cdots \mid h_n$  for some  $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## 12 Symmetries of Regular Polygons

$AO_n$ , the set of surjective symmetries  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  forms a subgroup of  $\text{Perm}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Proposition 12.1.** Let  $T \in AO_n$ , then  $T = T_{\mathbf{v}} \circ T'$ , where  $\mathbf{v} = T(\mathbf{0})$  and  $T'$  is an isometry with  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Proof.** Set  $T' = T_{\mathbf{v}}^{-1} \circ T = T_{-\mathbf{v}} \circ T$  where  $\mathbf{v} = T(\mathbf{0})$ .  $T'$  is an isometry because  $T$  and  $T_{\mathbf{v}}$  are isometries. Also  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = T_{-\mathbf{v}}(T(\mathbf{0})) = T_{-\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Theorem 12.2.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be an isometry such that  $T(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ . Then  $T$  is linear.

The centre of mass  $V = \{\mathbf{v}^1, \dots, \mathbf{v}^m\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is  $\mathbf{c}_V = \frac{1}{m}(\mathbf{v}^1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}^m)$ .

**Corollary 12.3.** Let  $V = \{\mathbf{v}^1, \dots, \mathbf{v}^m\}$  and let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be an isometry such that  $T(V) = V$ . Then  $T(\mathbf{c}_V) = \mathbf{c}_V$ .

**Proof.** Decompose  $T = T_{\mathbf{w}} \circ T'$  for some  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and isometry  $T'$  with  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ . So  $T'$  is linear. Then

$$\begin{aligned} T(\mathbf{c}_V) &= \mathbf{w} + T'(\mathbf{c}_V) = \mathbf{w} + T' \left( \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^i \right) \\ &= \mathbf{w} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i T'(\mathbf{v}^i) && \text{(using linearity)} \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_i (T'(\mathbf{v}^i) + \mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i T(\mathbf{v}^i) \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^i && \text{(since } T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}) \\ &= \mathbf{c}_V \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 12.4.** Let  $G \leq AO_n$  be finite. Then there exists  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $T\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}$  for any  $T \in G$ . If we translate to change coordinates so  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ , then  $G < O_n$ .

**Proof.** Pick any  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $V = \{S\mathbf{w} : S \in G\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .  $V$  is finite because  $G$  is finite. Also  $T(V) = \{TS\mathbf{w} : S \in G\} = \{S\mathbf{w} : S \in G\} = V$ . Take  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}_V$  then by the previous corollary  $T(\mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{c}$  for all  $T \in G$ .

**Proposition 12.5** (Symmetries of Regular Polygons). The group of symmetries of a regular  $n$ -gon is in fact  $D_n$ .

## 13 Abstract Symmetry and Group Actions

**Definition 13.1** ( $G$ -set, Group Action). A  $G$ -set is a set  $S$  equipped with a map  $\alpha : G \times S \rightarrow S; (g, s) \mapsto \alpha(g, s) = g.s$  is called a group action and satisfies the following axioms:

- i)  $g.(h.s) = (g.h).s$  for all  $g, h \in G, s \in S$ .
- ii)  $1_G.s = s$  for all  $s \in S$ .

**Definition 13.2** (Permutation Representation). A permutation representation of a group  $G$  on a set  $S$  is a homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$ . This gives a  $G$ -set structure on  $S$ . Action is  $g.s = (\phi(g))(s)$ .

**Proposition 13.3.** Every  $G$ -set  $S$  arises from some permutation representation. Given  $G$ -set  $S$ , need to define homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$ , take  $\phi(g)(s) = g.s$ .

**Definition 13.4.** Let  $S_1, S_2$  be  $G$ -sets. A morphism of  $G$ -sets is a function  $\psi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  such that  $g.\psi(s) = \psi(g.s)$  for all  $g \in G, s \in S_1$ . Say that  $\psi$  is  $G$ -equivalent or that  $\psi$  is compatible with the  $G$ -action.