# Higher Algebra

# ${\rm Jeremy\ Le-UNSW\ MATH3711\ 25T1}$

## Contents

1	The Mathematical Language of Symmetry	2
2	Matrix Groups and Subgroups	3
3	Permutation Groups	4
4	Generators and Dihedral Groups	5
5	Alternating and Abelian Groups	7
6	Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem	8
7	Normal Subgroups and Quotient Groups	9
8	Group Homomorphisms	10
9	First Group Isomorphism Theorem	12
10	Second and Third Isomorphism Theorems	12
11	Products of Groups	13
12	Symmetries of Regular Polygons	14
13	Abstract Symmetry and Group Actions	15
14	Orbits and Stabilisers	15
15	Structure of C-orbits	16

### 1 The Mathematical Language of Symmetry

**Definition 1.1** (Isometry). A function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$  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  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$  such that T(F) = F.

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

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

$$||STx - STy|| = ||Tx - Ty||$$

$$= ||x - y||.$$
(S is an isometry)
$$(T \text{ is an isometry})$$

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

$$ST(F) = S(F)$$
  $(T(F) = F)$   
=  $F$ .  $(S(F) = F)$ 

So ST is a symmetry of F.

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

- i) Composition is associative, ST(R) = S(TR) for all  $S, T, R \in G$ .
- ii)  $id_{\mathbb{R}^n} \in G$   $(id_{\mathbb{R}^n}(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ). Also,  $id_G T = T$  and  $T id_G = T$  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.

$$||T^{-1}x - T^{-1}y|| = ||TT^{-1}x - TT^{-1}y||$$

$$= ||id x - id y||$$

$$= ||x - y||.$$

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"  $\mu: G \times G \to G$  such that

- 1) Associativity: (gh)k = g(hk) for all  $g, h, j \in G$ .
- 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 qh = qk then h = k for all  $q, h, k \in G$ .

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

### 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  $mI_n = m$  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.** 
$$(gh)(h^{-1}g^{-1}) = ghh^{-1}g^{-1} = g1g^{-1} = gg^{-1} = 1$$
. 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  $H \subseteq G$ ) 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  $\mu_H: H \times H \to H$  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  $q^n = q \cdot q \cdots q$  (n times)
- ii)  $q^0 = 1$
- 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 Perm(S) be the set of permutations of S. This is the set of bijections of form  $\sigma: S \to S$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** Perm(S) is a group when endowed with composition of functions.

**Proof.** Composition of bijections is a bijection. The identity is  $id_S$  and group inverse is the inverse function.

**Definition 3.3** (Symmetric Group). Let  $S = \{1, ..., n\}$ . The symmetric group  $S_n$  is 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  $s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_k \in S$  be distinct. We define a new permutation  $\sigma \in \text{Perm}(S)$  by  $\sigma(s_i) = s_{i+1}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k-1, \sigma(s_k) = \sigma(s_1)$  and  $\sigma(s) = s$  for  $s \notin \{s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_k\}$ . Denoted  $(s_1 s_2 \ldots s_k)$  and called a k-cycle.

Example 3.4. For n = 4,

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

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

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  $s_1 ldots s_k$  and  $t_1 ldots t_k$  are disjoint if  $\{s_1, ldots, s_k\} \cup \{t_1, ldots, t_k\} = \emptyset$ .

**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.** 
$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 1 & 5 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in S_6 \text{ does } 1 \to 2 \to 4 \to 1, 3 \to 6 \to 3 \text{ and } 5 \to 5.$$
 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  $S_1, \ldots, S_r$ , 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  $(s_1 s_2 ... s_k) = (s_1 s_k)(s_1 s_{k-1}) ... (s_1 s_3)(s_1 s_2)$ 

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

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

$$s_1 \rightarrow s_2$$

$$s_2 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_3$$

$$s_3 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_4$$

$$\vdots$$

$$s_{k-1} \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_k$$

$$s_k \rightarrow s_1.$$

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  $i \implies gh \in H_i$ .
- 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  $J \subseteq G$  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  $s_i \dots s_n \in \text{every } J$ . Each  $s_i \in J$  because  $s_i = s$  or  $s^{-1}$  for some  $s \in S \subseteq J$  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:  $(s_1 \ldots s_n)(t_1 \ldots t_m) = s_1 \ldots s_n t_1 \ldots t_m$  also closure under inversion:  $(s_1 \ldots s_n)^{-1} = s_1^{-1} \ldots s_n^{-1} \in H$  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  $G \in GL_2(\mathbb{R})$  with  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\frac{2\pi}{n}) & -\sin(\frac{2\pi}{n}) \\ \sin(\frac{2\pi}{n}) & -\cos(\frac{2\pi}{n}) \end{pmatrix}$  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

$$\sigma^{i_1} \tau^{j_1} \sigma^{i_2} \tau^{j_2} \dots \sigma^{i_r} \tau^{j_r}$$
 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  $0 \le i < n$  and j = 0, 1.

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

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

6

**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  $f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  be a function of n variables. Let  $\sigma \in S_n$ . We define function  $(\sigma f)(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = f(x_{\sigma(1)}, \ldots, x_{\sigma(n)})$ . 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  $f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  be a function in n variables. Let  $\sigma, \tau \in S_n$ , then  $(\sigma \tau) \cdot f = \sigma \cdot (\tau f)$ .

Proof.

$$(\sigma \cdot (\tau f))(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\tau f)(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)})$$
 (by definition)  

$$= f(y_{\tau(1)}, \dots, y_{\tau(n)})$$
 (where  $y_i = x_{\sigma}(i)$ )  

$$= f(x_{\sigma(\tau(1))}, \dots, x_{\sigma(\tau(n))})$$
  

$$= f(x_{(\sigma\tau)(1)}, \dots, x_{(\sigma\tau)(n)})$$
  

$$= ((\sigma\tau) \cdot f)(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

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.** Sufficent 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,  $H \to gH, h \mapsto gh$ . 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:

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

**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  $H \setminus G$ . 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  $N \subseteq G$  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  $N \subseteq G$ . 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)  $(qN)^{-1} = q^{-1}N$ .

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

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

$$(gN)(g'N) = g(Ng')N$$
 (associative)  
 $= g(g'N)N$   $(N \le G)$   
 $= (gg')(NN)$  (associative)  
 $= gg'N$   $(N^2 = N)$ 

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  $\phi : H \to G$  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  $\phi: H \to G$  be a group homomorphism. The following are equivalent:

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

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

**Proposition 8.3.** If  $\phi: H \to G, \psi: K \to H$  are group homomorphism then  $\phi \cdot \psi: K \to G$  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  $\phi: H \to G$  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  $C_g : G \to G$ ;  $h \mapsto ghg^{-1}$ . 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  $\phi: H \to G$  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  $T: V \to W$  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  $w \in L$ ,  $T^{-1}(w) = \text{plane containing } w$ , orthogonal to L = w + K where  $K = \text{kernel of } T = T^{-1}(0)$ .

**Definition 8.9.** Let  $\phi: H \to G$  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  $\phi: H \to G$  be a group homomorphism.

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

**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  $G' \leq G$ .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 9 First Group Isomorphism Theorem

**Theorem 9.1.** Let  $N \subseteq G$  and  $\pi: G \to G/N$  be quotient map. Suppose  $\phi: G \to H$  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  $\psi: G/N \to H; gN \mapsto \phi(g)$  is a homomorphism (the induced homomorphism).
- iii)  $\psi$  is the unique homomorphism  $G/N \to H$  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  $N \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  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:  $\phi : \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \to H$  where m is the order of hif this is finite and 0 if h has infinite order.

**Proof.** Define  $\phi: \mathbb{Z} \to H; i \mapsto h^i$ .  $\phi$  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  $\psi: \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \to H$ .  $\psi$  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  $\phi: G \to H$  be a homomorphism. The isomorphism  $\pi$  given by  $G \to H$  induces  $G/\ker \phi \to H$  (by Universal Property) induces  $G/\ker \phi \to \operatorname{Im} \phi$ .

### 10 Second and Third Isomorphism Theorems

**Proposition 10.1** (Subgroups of Quotient Groups). Let  $N \subseteq G$  and  $\pi: G \to G/N$  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  $\bar{H} \leq G/N$ .  $H \mapsto \pi(H) = \{nH : h \in H\} = H/N \text{ and } \bar{H} \longleftrightarrow \pi^{-1}(\bar{H})$ .

**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  $H_1 = \bigcup_{g \in H_1} gN$  (disjoint union of cosets).

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

**Theorem 10.2** (Second Isomorphism Theorem). Suppose  $N \subseteq G$  and  $N \subseteq H \subseteq G$ . 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.  $\ker(\phi) = \{g \in G : \pi_N(g) \in \ker(\pi_{H/N} : G/N \to \frac{G/N}{H/N}\} = \{g \in G : \pi_N(g) \in H/N\} = \pi^{-1}(H/N) = H \text{ by Proposition 10.1. First}$ 

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

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

- i)  $H \cap N \subseteq H$ ,  $HN \subseteq G$ .
- ii)  $\frac{H}{H \cap N} \cong \frac{HN}{N}$ .

### 11 Products of Groups

Recall given groups  $G_1, \ldots, G_n$ , the set  $G_1 \times G_2 \times \ldots G_n = \{(g_1, \ldots, g_n) : g_1 \in G_1, \ldots, g_n \in G_n\}$ . 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  $\iota_r: G_n \to \prod_{i \in I} G_i; g \mapsto (g_i)_{i \in I}$  where  $g_i = 1$  if  $i \neq r$  or  $g_i = g$  if i = r.
- ii) The canonical project  $\pi_r: \prod_{i\in I} G_i \to G_r; (g_i)_{i\in I} \mapsto g_r.$
- iii)  $\frac{G_1 \times G_2}{G_1 \times \{1\}} \cong G_2$  (Note:  $G_n \times \{1\} \subseteq G_1 \times G_2$ ).

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

**Proposition 11.4** (Internal Characterisation of Product). Let  $G_1, \ldots, G_n \leq G$ . Assume  $G = \langle G_1, \ldots, G_n \rangle$ . 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  $\phi: G_1 \times \dots G_n \to G; (g_1, \dots, g_n) \mapsto g_1g_2 \cdots g_n$ .

**Proof.** Check homomorphism:

$$\phi((g_1, \dots, g_n)(h_1, \dots, h_n)) = \phi((g_1 h_1, \dots g_n h_n))$$

$$= g_1 h_1 g_2 h_2 \cdots g_n h_n$$

$$= g_1 \cdots g_n h_1 \cdots h_n \qquad \text{(using (i))}$$

$$= \phi(g_1 \dots g_n) \phi(h_1 \dots h_n)$$

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

 $g_1 \cdots g_n = 1 \implies g_1^{-1} \in G_1 = g_2 \cdots g_n \in \langle G_2 \cdots G_n \rangle$  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 = 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 genereqated. Choose minimal generating set  $\{g_1, \ldots, g_n\}$ , each  $\langle g_i \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ . Want to prove that  $G \cong \langle g_1 \rangle \times \ldots \langle g_n \rangle$ . Condition (i): Need  $g_i g_j = g_j g_i$  for  $i \neq j$ . 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.  $\langle g_1 \rangle \cap \langle g_2, \ldots, g_n \rangle = \{1\}$ . If false, then  $g_1 \in \langle g_2, \ldots, g_n \rangle$  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  $G \cong \text{product of cyclic groups}$ . 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  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$  forms a subgroup of  $Perm(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**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  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = T_{-\mathbf{v}}(T(\mathbf{0})) = T_{-\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} = 0$ .

**Theorem 12.2.** Let  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$  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  $\mathbf{c}_V = \frac{1}{m}(\mathbf{v}^1 + \dots + \mathbf{v}^m)$ .

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

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

$$T(\mathbf{c}_{V}) = \mathbf{w} + T'(\mathbf{c}_{V}) = \mathbf{w} + T'\left(\frac{1}{m}\sum_{i}\mathbf{v}^{i}\right)$$

$$= \mathbf{w} + \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i}T'(\mathbf{v}^{i}) \qquad \text{(using linearity)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i}\left(T'(\mathbf{v}^{i}) + \mathbf{w}\right) = \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i}T(\mathbf{v}^{i})$$

$$= \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i}\mathbf{v}^{i} \qquad \text{(since } T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v})$$

$$= \mathbf{c}_{V}$$

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  $\alpha: G \times S \to S$ ;  $(g, s) \mapsto \alpha(g, s) = g.s$  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  $\phi: G \to \operatorname{Perm}(S)$ . 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  $\phi: G \to \operatorname{Perm}(S)$ , 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  $\psi : S_1 \to S_2$  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.

### 14 Orbits and Stabilisers

Let G = group, S = G—set. Define relation  $\sim$  on S by  $s \sim t \iff$  there exists  $g \in G$  such that t = g.s.

**Proposition 14.1.** This  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation.

**Proof.** Reflexive:  $1 \in G$ . Symmetric: if t = g.s then  $s = g^{-1}.t$ . Transitive: if t = g.s and u = g'.t then u = g'.(g.s) = (g'g).s.

Corollary - Definition 14.2 (Orbits). The equivalence classes of  $\sim$  are called G-orbits. Also, S is a disjoint union of orbits. The G-orbit containing  $s \in S$  is denoted  $G.s = \{g.s : g \in G\}$ . S/G denotes the set of G-orbits of S.

**Proposition - Definition 14.3** (*G*-stable). Let *S* be a *G*-set. A subset  $T \subseteq S$  is called *G*-stable if  $g.t \in T$  for all  $g \in G, t \in T$ .

**Proposition 14.4.** Let S = G-set and  $s \in S$ . The orbit G.s is the smallest G-stable subset of S containing s.

**Proof.** G.s is G-stable. If T is a G-stable subset containing s then  $G.s \subseteq T$ . Check these.

**Definition 14.5.** We say G acts transitively on G-set S, if S consists of a single orbit. i.e. for all  $t, s \in S$ , there exists g : g.s = t.

**Example 14.6.** Let  $G = \operatorname{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})_n(\mathbb{C})$ . G acts on  $S = M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , the set of  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$ , by conjugation, i.e. for all  $A \in G = \operatorname{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}), M \in S, A.M = AMA^{-1}$ . Let us check indeed this gives a group action. Check axioms.  $(i)I_n.M = I_nMI^{-1} = M.(ii)A.(B.M) = A.(BMB^{-1}) = ABMB^{-1}A_1 = (AB)M(AB)^{-1} = (AB).M$ . What are the orbits?  $GM = \{AMA^{-1} : A \in \operatorname{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})\}$ .

**Definition 14.7** (Stabilisers). Let  $s \in S$ . Then the stabiliser of s is  $stab_G(s) = \{g \in G : g.s = s\} \subseteq G$ **Proposition 14.8.** Let S be a G-set and let  $s \in S$ . Then  $stab_G(s) \leq G$ .

### 15 Structure of G-orbits

**Proposition 15.1.** Let  $H \leq G$ . Then G/H is a G-set with the action g'(gH) = (g'g)H for all  $g, g' \in G$ 

**Proof.** Checking axioms to show G/H is a G-set.

- (i) 1.(qH) = qH
- (ii) g''.(g'.(gH)) = (g''g')(gH). LHS = g''.(g'gH) = g''g'g'H = (g''g')gH =RHS.

**Theorem 15.2.** Suppose G acts transitively on S. Let  $s \in S$  and  $H = \operatorname{stab}_G(s) \leq G$ . Then there is an isomorphism of G-sets:  $\psi : G/H \to S; gH \mapsto g.s.$ 

**Proof.** Well-defined: if gH = g'H then g' = gh for  $h \in H$ . So we need to check g.s = g'.s. RHS = g'.s = (gh).s = g.(h.s) = g.s = LHS, for  $h \in \text{stab}(s)$ .

Next we need to check its a morphism of G-sets. i.e.  $\psi(g'(gH)) = g'.\psi(gH) \implies (g'g).s = g'.(g.s)$ . Next surjective because action is transitive. Injective: if  $\psi(gH) = \psi(g'H) \implies g.s = g'.s \implies s = (g^{-1}g').s$ . So  $g^{-1}g' \in \operatorname{stab}(s) = H$  so  $g' \in gH, gH = g'H$ .

Corollary 15.3. If G is finite then, |G.s| divides |G| by Lagrange's theorem.

**Proposition 15.4.** Let S = G-set,  $s \in S, g \in G$ . Then  $\operatorname{stab}_G(g.s) = g.\operatorname{stab}_G(s).g^{-1}$ .

Corollary 15.5. Let  $H_1, H_2 \leq G$  be conjugate. (i.e.  $H_2 = gH_1g^{-1}$  for some  $g \in G$ ). Then  $G/H_1 \cong G/H_2$  as G-sets.

**Definition 15.6.** If S = a platonic solid (all faces same, and all regular polygons, and same number of faces at each vertex) and G = group of rotation symmetries = symmetries  $\cap SO_3$ .

**Proposition 15.7.** With notation as above, then  $|G| = \text{number of faces} \times \text{number of edges on each face.}$ 

**Proof.** Let F = set of faces, G acts on F. Gives a G-set structure to F. Let  $f \in F$  be a face, then G.f = F (i.e. action is transitive). By the theorem,  $F \cong G/\operatorname{stab}_G(f)$ . But  $\operatorname{stab}_G(f) = \operatorname{rotations}$  around axis through face.  $\operatorname{stab}_G(f) = \operatorname{number}$  of edges on each face which implies  $|G| = |F||\operatorname{stab}_G(f)|$ .