algebra note

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Preface

These abstract algebra notes primarily focus on self-study, with a writing style that deliberately maintains low information density and includes some redundancy for clarity.

My first encounter with abstract algebra was through an English textbook, which was heavily focused on theorem proofs. Progress was slow, and I struggled to see practical applications. After spending considerable time with this approach, I sought Chinese resources for potentially better learning methods. On Bilibili, I discovered Maki's abstract algebra lectures and accompanying notes, which provided an excellent introduction to the subject. However, the content still had some gaps. Later, after finding a recommended algebra book, "Methods of Algebra" by Professor Li Wenwei, I began compiling these notes based on that foundation to aid my future studies. I will update the reference materials as needed.

Contents

Chapter 1 Set Theory

1.1 ZFC Axioms

Axiom 1.1 (Axiom of Extensionality)

If two sets have the same elements, then they are equal.

Axiom 1.2 (Axiom of Pairing)

For any elements x and y, there exists a set $\{x, y\}$ whose elements are exactly x and y.

Axiom 1.3 (Axiom Schema of Separation)

Let P be a property of sets, and let $P(u)$ denote that set u satisfies property P. Then for any set X, there exists a set Y such that:

$$Y = \{u \in X : P(u)\}$$

Axiom 1.4 (Axiom of Union)

For any set X, there exists its union set $\bigcup X$ defined as:

$$\bigcup X := \{u : \exists v \in X \text{ such that } u \in v\}$$

Axiom 1.5 (Axiom of Power Set)

For any set X, there exists its power set $\mathcal{P}(X)$ defined as:

$$\mathcal{P}(X) := \{u : u \subset X\}$$

Axiom 1.6 (Axiom of Infinity)

There exists an infinite set. More precisely, there exists a set X such that:

1. $\emptyset \in X$
2. *If $y \in X$, then $y \cup \{y\} \in X$*

Chapter 2 Group Theory

2.1 Monoid Group

Definition 2.1 (monoid)

We say that $(S, *)$ is a monoid if the binary operation satisfies the associative law and has an identity element. That is,

$$\forall x, y, z \in S, \quad x * (y * z) = (x * y) * z$$

and

$$\exists e \in S, \forall x \in S, \quad e * x = x * e = x$$

♣

Definition 2.2 (commutative monoid)

We say that $(S, *)$ is a commutative monoid if it is a monoid and the operation satisfies the commutative law. That is,

$$\forall x, y \in S, \quad x * y = y * x$$

♣

Proposition 2.1 (unique of identity element)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ be a monoid. Then the identity element is unique.

♠

Proof Suppose that e and e' are both identity elements of S. Then

$$e = e \cdot e' = e'$$

so $e = e'$. □

Proposition 2.2 (expand of associative law)

Let $x_1, \ldots, x_n, y_1, \ldots, y_m \in S$. Then

$$x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_n \cdot y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m = (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_n) \cdot (y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m)$$

♠

Proof We prove this by induction on n.

Base Case ($n = 1$): When $n = 1$, the statement simplifies to:

$$x_1 \cdot y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m = x_1 \cdot (y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m)$$

This is clearly true by the associative property of multiplication.

Inductive Step: Assume the statement holds for $n = k$, that is:

$$x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_k \cdot y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m = (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_k) \cdot (y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m)$$

We need to show that the statement holds for $n = k + 1$. Consider:

$$x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_k \cdot x_{k+1} \cdot y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m$$

By the associative property, we can regroup the terms as:

$$(x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_k) \cdot (x_{k+1} \cdot y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m)$$

Using the inductive hypothesis on the first k terms, we have:

$$(x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_k) \cdot x_{k+1} \cdot (y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m) = (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_k \cdot x_{k+1}) \cdot (y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m)$$

Thus, the statement holds for $n = k + 1$.

□

Proposition 2.3

Let $x \in S$ and $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$x^{m+n} = x^m \cdot x^n$$

♠

Proof We will prove this in three steps:

Step 1: First, recall from Proposition 2.2 that for any elements in S:

$$x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_n \cdot y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m = (x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot x_n) \cdot (y_1 \cdot y_2 \cdot \ldots \cdot y_m)$$

Step 2: Now, consider the special case where all elements are equal to x:

- Let $x_1 = x_2 = \ldots = x_m = x$
- Let $y_1 = y_2 = \ldots = y_n = x$

Step 3: By definition of exponentiation in a monoid:

$$\begin{aligned} x^{m+n} &= \underbrace{x \cdot x \cdot \ldots \cdot x}_{m+n \text{ times}} \\ &= (\underbrace{x \cdot x \cdot \ldots \cdot x}_{m \text{ times}}) \cdot (\underbrace{x \cdot x \cdot \ldots \cdot x}_{n \text{ times}}) \\ &= x^m \cdot x^n \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have proved that $x^{m+n} = x^m \cdot x^n$ for all $x \in S$ and $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. □

Definition 2.3 (Submonoid)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ be a monoid. If $T \subset S$, we say that $(T, \cdot)$ is a submonoid of $(S, \cdot)$ if:

1. *The identity element $e \in T$*
2. *T is closed under multiplication, that is:*

$$\forall x, y \in T, \quad x \cdot y \in T$$

♣

Proposition 2.4

If $(T, \cdot)$ is a submonoid of $(S, \cdot)$, then $(T, \cdot)$ is a monoid.

♠

Proof We need to verify two properties:

1. The operation is associative in T:
   Since $T \subset S$ and $\cdot$ is associative in S, it is also associative in T.
2. T has an identity element:
   By definition of submonoid, the identity element $e \in T$.

Therefore, $(T, \cdot)$ satisfies all properties of a monoid. □

Definition 2.4 (Monoid Homomorphism)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ and $(T, *)$ be monoids, and let $f : S \to T$ be a mapping. We say f is a monoid homomorphism if f preserves multiplication and maps the identity element to the identity element. That is:

1. *For all $x, y \in S$:*

$$f(x \cdot y) = f(x) * f(y)$$

2. *For the identity elements $e \in S$ and $e' \in T$:*

$$f(e) = e'$$

♣

Remark While a homomorphism preserves operations, an isomorphism represents complete structural equivalence. An isomorphism is first a **bijective mapping**, meaning it establishes a one-to-one correspondence between elements - essentially "relabeling" elements uniquely. Beyond being bijective, an isomorphism preserves operations under this relabeling, implying that the only difference between two structures (like monoids) is their labeling.

Example 2.1 Different Types of Monoid Maps Let's examine several maps between monoids:

1. **A homomorphism that is not an isomorphism:** Consider $f : (\mathbb{Z}, +) \to (\mathbb{Z}, +)$ defined by $f(n) = 2n$
   - Preserves operation: $f(a + b) = 2(a + b) = 2a + 2b = f(a) + f(b)$
   - Is injective: $f(a) = f(b) \implies 2a = 2b \implies a = b$
   - Not surjective: odd numbers are not in the image
   - Therefore: homomorphism but not isomorphism
2. **Non-isomorphic homomorphism:** Consider $h : (\mathbb{Z}, +) \to (\mathbb{Z}_2, +)$ defined by $h(n) = n \bmod 2$
   - Preserves operation: $h(a + b) = (a + b) \bmod 2 = (a \bmod 2 + b \bmod 2) \bmod 2 = h(a) + h(b)$
   - Not injective: $h(0) = h(2) = 0$
   - Surjective: image is all of $\mathbb{Z}_2$
   - Therefore: homomorphism but not isomorphism

Definition 2.5 (Generated Submonoid)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ be a monoid and $A \subset S$ be a subset. The submonoid generated by A, denoted by $\langle A \rangle$, is defined as the intersection of all submonoids of S containing A. That is:

$$\langle A \rangle = \bigcap \{T \subset S : T \supset A,\ T \text{ is a submonoid}\}$$

♣

Proposition 2.5

Let $(S, \cdot)$ be a monoid and $A \subset S$ be a subset. Then $\langle A \rangle$ is also a submonoid. Therefore, it is the smallest submonoid containing A.

♠

Proof We will prove this in two steps:

Step 1: Show $\langle A \rangle$ contains the identity element

Let $\{T_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be the collection of all submonoids containing A, Each T_α contains the identity e (by definition of submonoid), Therefore $e \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} T_\alpha = \langle A \rangle$

Step 2: Show closure under multiplication

Let $x, y \in \langle A \rangle = \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} T_\alpha$, Then $x, y \in T_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in I$ Since each T_α is a submonoid, $x \cdot y \in T_\alpha$ for all $\alpha \in I$, Therefore $x \cdot y \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in I} T_\alpha = \langle A \rangle$.

□

Definition 2.6 (Monoid Isomorphism)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ and $(T, *)$ be monoids, and let $f : S \to T$ be a mapping. We say f is a monoid isomorphism if f is bijective and a homomorphism. That is:

1. *f is bijective (one-to-one and onto)*

2. *For all* $x, y \in S$*:*
$$f(x \cdot y) = f(x) * f(y)$$
3. *For the identity elements* $e \in S$ *and* $e' \in T$*:*
$$f(e) = e'$$

Proposition 2.6

If $f : (S, \cdot) \to (T, *)$ *is a monoid isomorphism, then* $f^{-1} : T \to S$ *is a monoid homomorphism. Therefore,* f^{-1} *is also a monoid isomorphism.*

Proof Since f is an isomorphism, f^{-1} exists and is bijective. We need to show:

1. f^{-1} preserves operation:
$$\begin{aligned} f^{-1}(a * b) &= f^{-1}(f(f^{-1}(a)) * f(f^{-1}(b))) \\ &= f^{-1}(f(f^{-1}(a) \cdot f^{-1}(b))) \\ &= f^{-1}(a) \cdot f^{-1}(b) \end{aligned}$$
2. f^{-1} preserves identity:
$$f^{-1}(e') = e \text{ where } e' \text{ and } e \text{ are identity elements}$$

Therefore, f^{-1} is both a homomorphism and bijective, making it an isomorphism. □

2.2 Group

Definition 2.7 (Invertible Element)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ *be a monoid and* $x \in S$*. We say* x *is invertible if and only if*
$$\exists y \in S, x \cdot y = y \cdot x = e$$
where y *is called the inverse of* x*, denoted as* x^{-1}*.*

Proposition 2.7 (Uniqueness of Inverse)

Let $(S, \cdot)$ *be a monoid. If* $x \in S$ *is invertible, then its inverse is unique. That is, if* $y, y' \in S$ *are both inverses of* x*, then* $y = y'$*.*

Proof Let y and y' be inverses of x. Then:
$$\begin{aligned} y &= y \cdot e \\ &= y \cdot (x \cdot y') \\ &= (y \cdot x) \cdot y' \\ &= e \cdot y' \\ &= y' \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the inverse is unique. □

Definition 2.8 (Group)

Let $(G, \cdot)$ be a monoid. We say it is a group if every element in G is invertible.
Equivalently, if $\cdot$ is a binary operation on G, we say $(G, \cdot)$ is a group, or G forms a group under $\cdot$, when this operation satisfies:

1. *Associativity: For all $x, y, z \in G$*
$$x \cdot (y \cdot z) = (x \cdot y) \cdot z$$
2. *Identity element: There exists $e \in G$ such that for all $x \in G$*
$$x \cdot e = e \cdot x = x$$
3. *Inverse elements: For each $x \in G$, there exists $y \in G$ such that*
$$x \cdot y = y \cdot x = e$$

♣

Proposition 2.8

Let $(G, \cdot)$ be a group and $x \in G$. Then $(x^{-1})^{-1} = x$.

♠

Proof Let $y = x^{-1}$. Then:
$$y \cdot x = x \cdot y = e$$
This shows that x is the inverse of $y = x^{-1}$. Therefore, $(x^{-1})^{-1} = x$. □

Proposition 2.9 (Inverse of Product)

Let $(G, \cdot)$ be a group and $x, y \in G$. Then $(x \cdot y)^{-1} = y^{-1} \cdot x^{-1}$.

♠

Proof We will show that $y^{-1} \cdot x^{-1}$ is the inverse of $x \cdot y$:
$$\begin{aligned}(x \cdot y)(y^{-1} \cdot x^{-1}) &= x \cdot (y \cdot y^{-1}) \cdot x^{-1} \\ &= x \cdot e \cdot x^{-1} \\ &= x \cdot x^{-1} \\ &= e\end{aligned}$$
Similarly, $(y^{-1} \cdot x^{-1})(x \cdot y) = e$. Therefore, $(x \cdot y)^{-1} = y^{-1} \cdot x^{-1}$. □

Definition 2.9 (Abelian Group)

Let $(G, \cdot)$ be a group. We say it is an abelian group, or commutative group, if the operation satisfies the commutative law:
$$\forall x, y \in G, \quad x \cdot y = y \cdot x$$

♣

Lemma 2.1

Let $(S, \cdot)$ be a monoid and let G be the subset of all invertible elements in S. Then $(G, \cdot)$ is a group.

♡

Proof We need to verify three group axioms:

1. Closure: If $x, y \in G$, then $x \cdot y \in G$ (as product of invertible elements is invertible)
2. Identity: $e \in G$ (as e is invertible)
3. Inverse: If $x \in G$, then $x^{-1} \in G$ (by definition of invertible elements)

Associativity is inherited from S. Therefore, $(G, \cdot)$ is a group. □

Definition 2.10 (General Linear Group)

The group of $n \times n$ invertible real matrices under matrix multiplication is called the general linear group of degree n over the real numbers, denoted as $(GL(n, \mathbb{R}), \cdot)$. Since a matrix is invertible if and only if its determinant is nonzero:

$$GL(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in M(n, \mathbb{R}) : \det(A) \neq 0\}$$

♣

Definition 2.11 (Special Linear Group)

The special linear group of degree n over the real numbers is the group of $n \times n$ real matrices with determinant exactly 1 under matrix multiplication, denoted as $(SL(n, \mathbb{R}), \cdot)$. That is:

$$SL(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in M(n, \mathbb{R}) : \det(A) = 1\}$$

♣

Definition 2.12 (Subgroup)

Let $(G, \cdot)$ be a group and $H \subset G$. We say H is a subgroup of G, denoted as $H < G$, if it contains the identity element and is closed under multiplication and inverse operations. That is:

1. $\forall x, y \in H, \quad x \cdot y \in H$ *(closure under multiplication)*
2. $\forall x \in H, \quad x^{-1} \in H$ *(closure under inverse)*
3. $e \in H$ *(contains identity)*

♣

Proposition 2.10

Let $(G, \cdot)$ be a group. If H is a subgroup of G, then $(H, \cdot)$ is also a group.

♠

Proof Since H is a subgroup:

1. Associativity: Inherited from G
2. Identity: $e \in H$ by definition of subgroup
3. Inverse: For all $x \in H$, $x^{-1} \in H$ by definition of subgroup
4. Closure: For all $x, y \in H$, $x \cdot y \in H$ by definition of subgroup

Therefore, $(H, \cdot)$ satisfies all group axioms. □

Proposition 2.11

For convenience, we can combine the first two conditions of a subgroup definition 2.12 into one, reducing to two conditions:

1. $\forall x, y \in H, \quad x \cdot y^{-1} \in H$
2. $e \in H$

These conditions are equivalent to the original subgroup definition.

♠

Proof

($\Rightarrow$) $\forall y \in H$, $y^{-1} \in H$, then the closure under multiplication, $\forall x, y, y^{-1} \in H$, $x \cdot y^{-1} \in H$

($\Leftarrow$) $\forall x, y \in H$, $x \cdot y^{-1} \in H$, let $x = e$, then have $\forall y \in H$, $y^{-1} \in H$; so $\forall x, y^{-1} \in H$, $x \cdot (y^{-1})^{-1} \in H$, then $x \cdot y \in H$. □

Proposition 2.12

$(SL(n, \mathbb{R}), \cdot)$ is a group.

♠

Proof We verify the group axioms:

1. Closure: If $A, B \in SL(n, \mathbb{R})$, then $\det(AB) = \det(A)\det(B) = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$, so $AB \in SL(n, \mathbb{R})$
2. Identity: The identity matrix $I_n \in SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ since $\det(I_n) = 1$
3. Inverse: If $A \in SL(n, \mathbb{R})$, then $\det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(A)} = 1$, so $A^{-1} \in SL(n, \mathbb{R})$
4. Associativity: Inherited from matrix multiplication

Therefore, $(SL(n, \mathbb{R}), \cdot)$ is a group. □

Definition 2.13 (Group Homomorphism)

Let $(G, \cdot)$ and $(G', *)$ be groups, and let $f : G \to G'$ be a mapping. We say f is a group homomorphism if it preserves the operation, that is:

$$\forall x, y \in G, \quad f(x \cdot y) = f(x) * f(y)$$

♣

Proposition 2.13

Let $f : (G, \cdot) \to (G', *)$ be a group homomorphism. Then:

1. *$f(e) = e'$ (preserves identity)*
2. *$f(x^{-1}) = f(x)^{-1}$ (preserves inverses)*

♠

Proof

1. For identity element:

$$f(e) * f(e) = f(e \cdot e) = f(e) \quad \text{left multiply by } f(e)^{-1}$$
$$\therefore f(e) = e'$$

2. For inverse elements:

$$f(x) * f(x^{-1}) = f(x \cdot x^{-1}) = f(e) = e' \quad \text{left multiply by } f(x)^{-1}$$
$$\therefore f(x^{-1}) = f(x)^{-1}$$

□