

Conjecture

$$(AB)^k = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof

$$(AB)(AB)^k = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k-1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -(k+1) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So conjecture true by induction.

Therefore $|AB|$ is infinite.

We'll suppose a group G is
abelian

What $|BA|$?

$$\underbrace{ABAB \dots AB}_{k \text{ pairs}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A \underbrace{BA BA \dots BA B}_{k-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow (BA)^{k-1} = A^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B^{-1}$$

$$= A^3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} B^2$$

I expect $|BA|$ will be infinite also.

Assume G is abelian and
 $x, y \in G$ with finite order.

conjecture: $|xy|$ is finite also.

Proof - Suppose $|x| = m, |y| = n$

FALSE

$$(a_1 \dots a_m) = (a_{m-1} a_m) \dots (a_2 a_m) (a_1 a_m)$$

$m-1$ transpositions

$$\text{eg } (1 \ 2 \ 5 \ 3) = (5 \ 3)(2 \ 3)(1 \ 3)$$

→ any permutation can be given as a composition of transpositions.

→ If σ can be written as a product of an even number of transpositions then it always requires an even number of transpositions and the same for odd

— — — — —
odd — — — — —

S_n has an important subgroup A_n , called the Alternating group of index n .

