

# MATH403 Introduction to Abstract Algebra

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# 1 Preliminaries

**Well Ordering Principle:** every nonempty set of positive integers has a smallest member

**Division Algorithm:** let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $b > 0$  then there exist unique  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $a = bq + r$  where  $0 \leq r < b$

**Proof:** broken down into existence and uniqueness

- Existence: consider the set  $S = \{a - bk \mid k \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge a - bk \geq 0\}$ 
  - if  $0 \in S$  then  $b \mid a \implies q = a/b$  and  $r = 0$
  - if  $0 \notin S$  then
    - \* if  $a > 0$ ,  $a - b \cdot 0 \in S$
    - \* if  $a < 0$ ,  $a - b(2a) = a(1 - 2b) \in S$  (**note:** we are dealing with integers)

So  $S$  is nonempty. Applying Well Ordering Principle,  $S$  has a smallest member  $r = a - bq$  where  $r \geq 0$

To show that  $r < b$ , assume by contradiction that  $r \geq b$ , then  $r - b \geq 0 \implies a - bq - b = a - b(q + 1) \in S$ .

However,  $a - b(q + 1) < a - bq$  which is a contradiction since  $a - bq$  is not the smallest member. Thus  $r < b$ .

- Uniqueness: suppose  $q, q', r, r' \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$a = bq + r, 0 \leq r < b \quad \text{and} \quad a = bq' + r', 0 \leq r' < b$$

Without loss of generality, suppose  $r' \geq r$ , then  $bq + r = bq' + r' \implies b(q - q') = r' - r$ .

Note that  $0 \leq r' - r < b$  so the only multiple of  $b$  that satisfies the inequality above is 0

Thus  $r' = r \implies q' = q$

**GCD Is a Linear Combo:** for any nonzero  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there exists  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\gcd(a, b) = as + bt$ . Moreover,  $\gcd(a, b)$  is the smallest positive integer of the form  $as + bt$

**Proof:** broken down into existence, smallest, and greatest divisor

- Existence: consider  $S = \{am + bn \mid m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \wedge am + bn > 0\}$

Since  $S$  is nonempty, by the Well Ordering Principle,  $S$  has a smallest member, say  $d = as + bt$

- Smallest: we claim that  $d = \gcd(a, b)$

Using Division Algorithm, we have  $a = dq + r$  where  $0 \leq r < d$

If  $r > 0$  then  $r = a - dq = a - (as + bt)q = a(1 - sq) + b(-tq) \in S$  contradicting that  $d$  is the smallest member of  $S$

So  $r = 0$  and  $d \mid a$

Analogously,  $d \mid b$  so  $d$  is a common divisor of  $a, b$

- Greatest Divisor: suppose  $d'$  is another common divisor, then  $a = d'h$  and  $b = d'k$

Then  $d = as + bt = (d'h)s + (d'k)t = d'(hs + kt)$  so  $d'$  is a divisor of  $d$  and  $d$  is the greatest divisor

**GCD Corollary:** if  $a, b$  are relatively prime, then  $\exists s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $as + bt = 1$

**Euclid's Lemma:** if  $p$  is prime and  $p \mid ab$  then  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$

**Proof:** Suppose  $p \nmid a$ , then  $\gcd(p, a) = 1 \implies 1 = as + pt$  for  $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$  since GCD can be represented as a linear combo

This means that  $b = bas + bpt$ . Since  $p \mid \text{RHS} \implies p \mid \text{LHS}$

Thus  $p \mid b$

**Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic:** every integer  $> 1$  is a prime or a product of primes. This product is unique.

**Proof:** broken down into existence of a product of primes and unique product

- Existence: let  $S$  be the set of positive integers that cannot be factored as a product of primes

By the Well Ordering Principle,  $S$  has a smallest member  $n$

Since  $n$  is not prime,  $n = ab$  where  $1 < a, b < n$

Both  $a, b \notin S$  so they are a product of primes

But  $n = ab$  so  $n$  is a product of primes, thus a contradiction is reached and  $S$  is empty

- Uniqueness: let  $S$  be a set of positive integers with non-unique prime factorizations

By the Well Ordering Principle,  $S$  has a smallest member  $n = p_1 \dots p_r = q_1 \dots q_s$

Note that  $p_1 \mid n \implies p_1 \mid q_1 \dots q_s$

By Euclid's Generalized Lemma,  $p_1 \mid q_j$  for some  $1 \leq j \leq s$

Since both  $p_1$  and  $q_j$  are prime,  $p_1 = q_j$

After reordering the  $q_k$  factors, we get  $p_2 \dots p_r = q_2 \dots q_s < n$  so  $\notin S$

Thus the remaining factors have a unique factorization and  $r = s$  and  $p_2 \dots p_r$  are the same as  $p_2 \dots q_s$

Thus  $S$  is empty

**Multiples of lcm(a,b):** let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  be nonzero. Then every common multiple of  $a, b$  is a multiple of  $(a, b)$

**Proof:** let  $m = (a, b)$  and  $M$  be a multiple of  $a, b$ .

By definition of lcm,  $m \leq M$

By the division algorithm,  $M = mq + r$  for  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $0 \leq r < m$

Implies  $r = M - mq$  and  $ab \mid \text{RHS} \implies ab \mid \text{LHS}$

Since  $r$  is restricted to  $0 \leq r < m$  and  $m$  is the lowest multiple of  $ab$ , we have that  $r = 0$

Thus  $M = qm$  and  $m \mid M$

**First Principle of Mathematical Induction:** let  $S$  be a set of integers containing  $a$ . Suppose  $S$  has the property that for some integers  $n \geq a, n \in S$ , then  $n + 1 \in S$ . Then,  $S$  contains every integer greater than or equal to  $a$

**Proof:** let  $A$  be a nonempty set consisting of integers  $n \geq a$  where  $P(n)$  doesn't hold

By the Well Ordering Principle,  $A$  has a least element, call it  $m$ .

Since  $P(a)$  is true,  $a \neq m$ . Also, since  $m$  is the smallest member of  $A$ ,  $P(m - 1)$  is true

But then the property holds for  $(m - 1) + 1$  thus a contradiction is reached and  $A$  is empty

Thus  $S$  contains all integers  $\geq a$

**Second Principle of Mathematical Induction:** let  $S$  be a set of integers containing  $a$ . Suppose  $S$  has the property that  $n \in S$  whenever every integer  $< n$  and  $\geq a$  is in  $S$ . Then  $S$  contains every integer  $\geq a$

**Proof:** let  $A$  be a nonempty set consisting of integers  $n \geq a$  where  $P(n)$  doesn't hold

By the Well Ordering Principle,  $A$  has a smallest element, call it  $m$ .

Since  $P(a)$  holds,  $a \neq m$

This means that  $P(a), P(a + 1), \dots, P(m - 2), P(m - 1)$  hold, which implies that  $P(m)$  holds and we have a contradiction

Thus  $A$  is empty and  $S$  contains all integers  $\geq a$

**Equivalence Relation:** an **equivalence relation** on set  $S$  is a set  $R$  of ordered pairs of elements of  $S$  such that

1. **Reflexive Property:**  $(a, a) \in R$  for all  $a \in S$
2. **Symmetric Property:**  $(a, b) \in R \implies (b, a) \in R$
3. **Transitive Property:**  $(a, b) \in R \wedge (b, c) \in R \implies (a, c) \in R$

**Partition:** a **partition** of set  $S$  is a collection of nonempty disjoint subsets of  $S$  whose union is  $S$

**Equivalence Classes Partition:** the equivalence classes of an equivalence relation on a set  $S$  constitute a partition of  $S$ . Conversely, for any partition  $P$  of  $S$ , there is an equivalence relation on  $S$  whose equivalence classes are the elements of  $P$

**Proof:** let  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on set  $S$ .

- for any  $a \in S$ , reflexive property shows that  $a \in [a]$  so  $[a]$  is nonempty and the union of all equivalence classes is  $S$
- suppose  $[a]$  and  $[b]$  are distinct equivalence classes, need to show that  $[a] \cap [b] = \emptyset$

By contradiction, assume  $c \in [a] \cap [b]$

Let  $x \in [a]$  then we have  $c \sim a, c \sim b, x \sim a$ .

By symmetric property, we also have that  $a \sim c$  and by transitivity we have  $x \sim c$  and  $x \sim b$ .

Thus  $[a] \subseteq [b]$ . Analogously  $[b] \subseteq [a]$ .

Thus  $[a] = [b]$  which yields a contradiction that  $[a]$  and  $[b]$  were distinct equivalence classes

Thus  $[a]$  and  $[b]$  are disjoint

To prove the converse, let  $P$  be a collection of nonempty disjoint subsets of  $S$  whose union is  $S$ .

Define  $a \sim b$  if  $a, b$  belong in the same subset

- Reflexivity: since the union of the subsets form  $S$  every  $x \in S$  belongs to some subset
- Symmetry: by definition if  $a, b$  are in the same subset, then  $b, a$  are in the same subset
- Transitivity: if  $a, b$  are in the subset and  $b, c$  are in the same subset, then these must be the same subset since partitions must be disjoint. Thus  $a, c$  are in the same subset

## 2 Groups

**Binary Operation:** binary operation on set  $G$  is a function that assigns each ordered pair of elements of  $G$  an element of  $G$

- this preserves **closure**, meaning that the members of an ordered pair from  $G$  yield a member of  $G$

**Group:** let  $G$  be a set together with a binary operation that assigns each ordered pair  $(a, b)$  of elements of  $G$  an element in  $G$ , denoted  $ab$ .  $G$  is a **group** if all 3 are satisfied:

1. **Associativity:** operation is associative so  $(ab)c = a(bc)$  for all  $a, b, c \in G$
2. **Identity:** there is an **identity element**  $e \in G$  such that  $ae = ea = a$  for all  $a \in G$
3. **Inverses:** for each element  $a \in G$  there is an **inverse element**  $b \in G$  such that  $ab = ba = e$

**Abelian (commutative):** a group is Abelian if for every pair of elements  $a, b$  we have  $ab = ba$ . Otherwise it is non-Abelian if there is some pair of elements  $a, b$  such that  $ab \neq ba$

**Examples:**

1. set of integers  $Z$ , rational numbers  $Q$ , and real numbers  $R$  are groups under ordinary addition
  - associativity is held

- identity is 0
  - inverse of  $a$  is  $-a$
2. set of integers under ordinary multiplication is NOT a group
- there is no integer  $b$  such that  $5b = 1$
3. subset  $\{1, -1, i, -i\}$  of complex numbers is a group under complex multiplication
- associativity is held
  - identity is 1
  - all terms have an inverse that exists in the subset
4. set  $Q^+$  is a group under ordinary multiplication
- associativity is held
  - identity is 1
  - inverse of any  $a$  is  $1/a = a^{-1}$
5. set  $S$  of positive irrational numbers and 1, although it satisfies the 3 given properties, it is not a group
- $\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2} = 2 \notin S$  so  $S$  is not closed under multiplication.
6. rectangular matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  of real entries is a group under componentwise addition
- associativity is held
  - identity is  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
  - inverse of  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  is  $\begin{bmatrix} -a & -b \\ -c & -d \end{bmatrix}$
7.  $Z_n = \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$  for  $n \geq 1$  is a group under addition modulo  $n$
- associativity is held
  - identity is 0
  - for  $j > 0 \in Z_n$ , inverse of  $j$  is  $n - j$

## 2.1 Elementary Properties of Groups

**Theorem 2.1 Uniqueness of the Identity:** in a group  $G$ , there is only 1 identity element

**Proof:** suppose  $e$  and  $e'$  are both identities of  $G$ . Then

1.  $ae = a$  for all  $a \in G$  and
2.  $e'a = a$  for all  $a \in G$

Then  $e'e = e'$  and  $e'e = e$  so  $e' = e$

**Theorem 2.2 Cancellation:** in a group  $G$ , the right and left cancellation laws hold. That is

$$ba = ca \implies b = c \quad \text{and} \quad ab = ac \implies b = c$$

**Proof:** suppose  $ba = ca$  and let  $a'$  be the inverse of  $a$

$$(ba)a' = (ca)a' \implies b(aa') = c(aa') \text{ by Associativity} \implies b = c$$

Similar proof for left cancellation

**Theorem 2.3 Uniqueness of inverses:** for each element  $a \in G$ , there is a unique element  $b \in G$  such that  $ab = ba = e$

**Proof:** assume  $b, c$  are both inverses of  $a$ . Then  $ab = e$  and  $ac = e$  so  $ab = ac$

Cancelling  $a$  on both sides gives  $b = c$

**Additional Notation:**

- $g^0 = e$
- typically do not allow noninteger exponents like  $g^{1/2}$
- exponent addition and multiplication laws hold:  $g^m g^n = g^{m+n}$  and  $(g^m)^n = g^{mn}$
- exponent expansion of 2 elements typically does not hold:  $(ab)^n \neq a^n b^n$
- because of uniqueness of inverse, for a valid group there is only 1 solution to  $ax = b$ , namely  $a^{-1}b$

**Theorem 2.4 Socks-Shoes Property:** for elements  $a, b$ ,  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$

**Proof:**  $(ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = a(bb^{-1}a^{-1})$  by Associativity  $= aea^{-1} = aa^{-1} = e$ .

Thus  $(ab)(ab)^{-1} = (ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = e$  and  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$

## 3 Finite Groups; Subgroups

**Order of a Group:** number of elements in a group, denoted  $|G|$

**Order of an Element:** smallest positive integer  $n$  such that  $g^n = e$ , denoted  $|g|$

- for additive notation, this would be  $ng = 0$
- if no such integer exists, element  $g$  has **infinite order**

**Examples**

- let  $U(15) = \{1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14\}$  under multiplication mod 15.
  - the group has order 8
  - order of element 7,  $7^1 \equiv 7, 7^2 \equiv 4, 7^3 \equiv 13, 7^4 \equiv 1$  so  $|7| = 4$
- $Z$  under ordinary addition:
  - every nonzero element has infinite order since the sequence  $a, 2a, 3a, \dots$  never includes 0 when  $a \neq 0$

**Subgroup:** a subset  $H$  of group  $G$  that is a group under the operation of  $G$ , denoted  $H \leq G$

- **Trivial Subgroup:**  $\{e\}$  of  $G$
- **Nontrivial Subgroup:** any subgroup that is not  $\{e\}$
- Note:  $Z_n$  under addition modulo  $n$  is **not** a subgroup of  $Z$  under addition since it isn't an operation under  $Z$

### 3.1 Subgroup Tests

**One-Step Subgroup Test:** let  $G$  be a group and  $H \subseteq G$  with  $H \neq \emptyset$ . If  $(\forall a, b \in H)[ab^{-1} \in H]$ , then  $H \leq G$

- in additive notation, if  $a - b \in H$  whenever  $a, b \in H$  then  $H \leq G$

**Proof:**

- associativity:  $H$  has the same operation as  $G$
- identity: pick any  $x \in H$  and let  $a = b = x$ , then  $xx^{-1} = e \in H$

- inverse: pick any  $x \in H$  and let  $a = e, b = x$ , then  $ex^{-1} = x^{-1} \in H$
- closure: pick any  $x, y \in H$  and let  $a = x, b = y^{-1}$ , then  $xy = x(y^{-1})^{-1} \in H$

**Steps to apply One-Step Subgroup Test:**

1. identify property  $P$  that distinguishes elements of  $H$  (defining condition)
2. prove that the identity has property  $P$  (verify  $H$  is nonempty)
3. assume elements  $a, b$  have property  $P$  and use assumption to show  $ab^{-1}$  has property  $P$

**Example:** let  $G$  be an Abelian group with identity  $e$ . Then  $H = \{x \in G | x^2 = e\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$

- defining property of  $H$  is condition  $x^2 = e$
- $e^2 = e$  so  $H$  is nonempty
- assuming  $a, b \in H$ , we have  $a^2 = b^2 = e$
- since  $G$  is Abelian,  $(ab^{-1})^2 = ab^{-1}ab^{-1} = a^2(b^{-1})^2 = a^2(b^2)^{-1} = ee^{-1} = e$ . Therefore  $ab^{-1} \in H$
- so by One-Step Subgroup Test,  $H \leq G$

**Example:** let  $G$  be an Abelian group under multiplication with identity  $e$ , then  $H = \{x^2 | x \in G\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$

- since  $e^2 = e$ , identity has the correct form so  $H$  is nonempty
- assuming  $a^2, b^2 \in H$  and since  $G$  is Abelian, we can write  $a^2(b^2)^{-1}$  as  $(ab^{-1})^2$  thus  $H \leq G$

**Two-Step Subgroup Test:** let  $G$  be a group and  $H \subseteq G$  with  $H \neq \emptyset$ . If  $(\forall a, b \in H)[ab \in H \wedge a^{-1} \in H]$  then  $H \leq G$

**Proof:** given  $a, b \in H$ , since  $b^{-1} \in H$ , we have  $ab^{-1} \in H$  so the One-Step Subgroup Test is satisfied

**Example:** let  $G$  be an Abelian group. Then  $H = \{x \in G \mid |x| \text{ is finite} \}$  is a subgroup of  $G$

- $e^1 = e$  so  $H$  is non-empty
- assume  $a, b \in H$  and let  $|a| = m$  and  $|b| = n$
- since  $G$  is Abelian, we have  $(ab)^{mn} = (a^m)^n(b^n)^m = e^n e^m = e$  so  $ab$  has finite order
- $(a^{-1})^m = (a^m)^{-1} = e^{-1} = e$ , so  $a^{-1}$  has finite order
- by Two-Step Subgroup Test,  $H \leq G$

**Example:** let  $G$  be an Abelian group and  $H, K$  be subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $HK = \{hk | h \in H, k \in K\}$  is a subgroup of  $G$

- $e = ee \in HK$
- suppose  $a, b \in HK$ . By definition of  $H$  there are elements  $h_1, h_2 \in H$  and  $k_1, k_2 \in K$  such that  $a = h_1k_1$  and  $b = h_2k_2$
- to prove that  $ab \in HK$ , observe that since  $G$  is Abelian and  $H, K \leq G$ , we have  $ab = h_1k_1h_2k_2 = (h_1h_2)(k_1k_2) \in HK$
- likewise  $a^{-1} = (h_1k_1)^{-1} = k_1^{-1}h_1^{-1} = h_1^{-1}k_1^{-1} \in HK$
- by Two-Step Subgroup Test,  $HK \leq G$

To show a subset of a group is not a subgroup show that either

- identity is not in the set
- an element's inverse is not in the set
- 2 elements whose product is not in the set

**Example:**  $G$  be a group of nonzero real numbers under multiplication.  $H = \{x \in G | x = 1 \vee x \in I\}$  and  $K = \{x \in G | x \geq q\}$ .

- $H$  is not a subgroup of  $G$  since  $\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2} = 2 \notin H$

- $K$  is not a subgroup of  $G$  since  $2 \in K$  but  $2^{-1} \notin K$

**Finite Subgroup Test:** let  $G$  be a group and  $H \subseteq G$  with  $|H| < \infty$ . If  $(\forall a, b \in H)[ab \in H]$  then  $H \leq G$

**Proof:** need to show that  $a^{-1} \in H$  for all  $a \in H$  then apply Two-Step Subgroup Test

- given  $a \in H$ , if  $a = e$  then  $a^{-1} = e$
- if  $a \neq e$ , consider  $S = \{a, a^1, \dots\} \in H$  by closure. Since  $H$  is finite 2 of elements, say  $a^j = a^k$  for  $1 \leq j < k$  must be identical. Simplifying we get  $e = a^{k-j} = aa^{k-j-1}$  so  $a^{k-j-1}$  is the inverse of  $a$  and is in  $H$

### 3.2 Examples of Subgroups

**$\langle a \rangle$  is a Subgroup:** let  $G$  be a group and let  $a \in G$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle \leq G$

**Proof:**

- since  $a \in \langle a \rangle$ , the subset is not empty
- let  $a^n, a^m \in \langle a \rangle$ . Then  $a^n(a^m)^{-1} = a^{n-m} \in \langle a \rangle$
- by One-Step Subgroup test,  $\langle a \rangle \leq G$

**Note:**  $\langle a \rangle$  is called the **cyclic subgroup** of  $G$  generated by  $a$

- $a^i a^j = a^{i+j} = a^{j+i} = a^j a^i$  so every cyclic group is Abelian

**Center of a Group:**  $Z(G)$  the center of group  $G$  is the subset of elements in  $G$  that commute with every element  $\in G$

$$(\forall x \in G)[Z(G) = \{a \in G | ax = xa\}]$$

**Center is a Subgroup:** the center of  $G$  is a subgroup of  $G$

**Proof:** assume  $a, b \in Z(G)$  so for all  $x \in G$  we have  $ax = xa$  and  $bx = xb$ . Then use Two-Step Subgroup Test:

- since  $xa = ax$  we have  $a^{-1}xaa^{-1} = a^{-1}axa^{-1}$  so  $a^{-1}x = xa^{-1}$  and  $a^{-1} \in Z(G)$
- since  $abx = axb = xab$ ,  $ab \in Z(G)$
- by Two-Step Subgroup Test,  $Z(G) \leq G$

**Centralizer:** let  $a$  be an element of  $G$ . The **centralizer** of  $a \in G$ , denoted  $C(a)$ , is the set of all elements in  $G$  that commute with  $a$

$$C(a) = \{g \in G | ga = ag\}$$

**$C(a)$  is a Subgroup:** for each  $a \in G$ , the centralizer of  $a$  is a subgroup of  $G$

**Proof:**

- $ae = a = ea$  so  $e \in C(a)$  and is non-empty
- take any  $x, y \in C(a)$ , then  $ax = xa$  and  $ay = ya$ . Then  $(xy)a = x(ya) = x(ay) = (xa)y = (ax)y = a(xy)$  so  $xy \in C(a)$
- take any  $x \in C(a)$ , then  $ax = xa$ . Then  $x^{-1}a = x^{-1}ae = x^{-1}a(xx^{-1}) = x^{-1}(ax)x^{-1} = x^{-1}(xa)x^{-1} = eax^{-1} = ax^{-1}$  so  $x^{-1} \in C(a)$
- By Two-Step Subgroup Test,  $C(a) \leq G$



## 4 Cyclic Groups

A group  $G$  is **cyclic** if there is an element  $a \in G$  such that  $G = \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$

- $a$  is called the **generator** of  $G$
- cyclic group generated by  $a$  is denoted  $\langle a \rangle$

**Examples:**

- $U(10) = \{1, 3, 7, 9\} = \{3^0, 3^1, 3^3, 3^2\} = \langle 3 \rangle$ . Similar for  $\langle 7 \rangle$
- $U(8) = \{1, 3, 5, 7\}$  has no cyclic group
  - $\langle 1 \rangle \rightarrow \{1\} \neq U(8)$
  - $\langle 3 \rangle \rightarrow \{3, 1\} \neq U(8)$
  - $\langle 5 \rangle \rightarrow \{5, 1\} \neq U(8)$
  - $\langle 7 \rangle \rightarrow \{7, 1\} \neq U(8)$

**Criterion for  $\mathbf{a^i = a^j}$ :** let  $G$  be a group and  $a \in G$

- if  $a$  has infinite order, then  $a^i = a^j$  if and only if  $i = j$
- if  $a$  has finite order  $(n)$ , then  $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$  and  $a^i = a^j$  if and only if  $n$  divides  $i - j$

**Proof:**

- if  $a$  has infinite order, then there is no  $n > 0$  such that  $a^n = e$   
Since  $a^i = a^j$ , we have that  $a^{i-j} = e$  and thus  $i - j = 0$
- if  $a$  has finite order  $(n)$ , let  $a^k$  be an arbitrary member of  $\langle a \rangle$   
By division algorithm,  $k = qn + r$  for  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $0 \leq r < n$  So  $a^k = a^{qn+r} = (a^n)^q a^r = a^r$   
Thus  $a^k \in \{e, a, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$  and  $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$   
Next, assume  $a^i = a^j$ , which implies  $a^{i-j} = e$   
By division algorithm,  $i - j = qn + r$  for  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $0 \leq r < n$   
Then  $a^{i-j} = a^{qn+r} = (a^n)^q a^r = a^r = e$   
Since  $n$  is the least positive integer such that  $a^n = e$ ,  $r$  must be 0  
Thus  $n \mid i - j$   
Conversely, if  $i - j = nq$ , then  $a^{i-j} = a^{nq} = (a^n)^q = e$  so  $a^i = a^j$

**Corollary 1:** for any  $a \in G$ ,  $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$

**Corollary 2:** let  $a \in G$  with  $|a| = n$ . If  $a^k = e$ , then  $n \mid k$

**Proof:** since  $a^k = e = a^0$ , by the previous theorem/criterion, we know that  $n \mid k - 0$

**Corollary 3:** if  $a, b$  belong to a finite group and  $ab = ba$ , then  $|ab|$  divides  $|a||b|$

**Proof:** let  $|a| = m$  and  $|b| = n$

$(ab)^{mn} = (a^m)^n (b^n)^m = e$  so by the Corollary 2,  $|ab|$  divides  $mn$

**Theorem 4.2:** let  $a \in G$  where  $|a| = n$  and let  $k$  be a positive integer then

- $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$

- $|a^k| = n/\gcd(n, k)$

**Proof:** let  $d = \gcd(n, k)$  and  $k = dr$

Since  $a^k = (a^d)^r$ , we have  $\langle a^k \rangle \subseteq \langle a^d \rangle$  by closure

Since  $\gcd$  can be written as a linear combo, we have  $d = ns + kt \implies a^d = a^{ns+kt} = (a^n)^s (a^k)^t = (a^k)^t \in \langle a^k \rangle$  so  $\langle a^d \rangle \subseteq \langle a^k \rangle$

Thus  $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^d \rangle$

**Order of Elements in a finite Cyclic Group:** in a finite cyclic group, the order of elements divides the order of the group

**Criterion for  $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  and  $|a^i| = |a^j|$ :** let  $|a| = n$  then

- $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, i) = \gcd(n, j)$
- $|a^i| = |a^j|$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, i) = \gcd(n, j)$

**Generators of Finite Cyclic Groups:** let  $|a| = n$  then

- $\langle a \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, j) = 1$
- $|a| = |\langle a^j \rangle|$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, j) = 1$

**Generators of  $Z_n$ :**  $k \in Z_n$  is a generator of  $Z_n$  if and only if  $\gcd(n, k) = 1$

**Fundamental Theorem of Cyclic Groups:** every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. Moreover

- if  $|\langle a \rangle| = n$ , then the order of any subgroup of  $\langle a \rangle$  is a divisor of  $n$
- for each positive divisor  $k$  of  $n$ , the group  $\langle a \rangle$  has exactly 1 subgroup of order  $k$ , namely  $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$

**Number of Elements of Each Order in a Cyclic Group:** if  $d$  is a positive divisor of  $n$ , then the number of elements of order  $d$  in a cyclic group of order  $n$  is  $\phi(d)$  (Euler phi function)

## 5 Permutation Group

**Permutation** of a set  $A$  is a function from  $A$  to  $A$  that is both 1-1 and onto

**Permutation Group** of set  $A$  is a set of permutations of  $A$  that form a group under function composition