Abstract Algebra Theorems and Definitions

MTH 411 - Fall 2023

0 Preliminaries

- **Axiom** **Well Ordering Principle:** Every nonempty set of positive integers contains a smallest element.
- **Definition** **Equivalence Relation:** An *equivalence relation* on a set S is a set R of ordered pairs of elements of S such that
  1. $(a, a) \in R \ \forall a \in S$ (reflexive property).
  2. $(a, b) \in R$ implies $(b, a) \in R$ (symmetric property).
  3. $(a, b) \in R$ and $(b, c) \in R$ imply that $(a, c) \in R$ (transitive property).
- **Definition** **Function (mapping):** A *function* ϕ from a set A to a set B is a rule that assigns to each element a of A exactly one element b of B. The set A is called the *domain* of ϕ, and B is called the *range* of ϕ. If ϕ assigns b to a, then b is called the *image of a under ϕ*. The subset of B comprising all the images of elements of A is called the *image of A under ϕ*.
- **Definition** **Composition of Functions:** Let $\phi : A \mapsto B$ and $\psi : B \mapsto C$. The *composition* $\psi\phi$ is the mapping from A to C defined by
$$(\psi\phi)(a) = \psi(\phi(a)), \ \forall a \in A.$$
- **Definition** **One-to-One Functions (injection):** A function ϕ from a set A is called *one-to-one* if for every $a_1, a_2 \in A$, $\phi(a_1) = \phi(a_2)$ implies $a_1 = a_2$.
- **Definition** **Onto Functions (surjection):** A function ϕ from a set A to a set B is said to be *onto* if each element of B is the image of at least one element of A. In symbols, $\phi : A \mapsto B$ is onto if for each $b \in B$ there is at least one $a \in A$ such that $\phi(a) = b$.
- **Theorem** **Division Algorithm:** Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $b > 0$. Then there exist unique integers q, r with the property that $a = bq + r$, where $0 \leq r < b$.
- **Theorem** **GCD is a Linear Combination:** For any nonzero integers a and b, there exist integers s and t such that $\mathsf{gcd}(a, b) = as + bt$. Moreover, $\mathsf{gcd}(a, b)$ is the smallest positive integer of the form $as + bt$.
- **Theorem** **Euclid's Lemma:** Let p be a prime, and let a, b be integers. If $p|ab$ then $p|a$ or $p|b$.

- **Theorem Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic:** Every integer greater than 1 is a prime or product of primes. This product is unique, except for the order in which the factors appear. That is, if $n = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r$ and $n = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_s$, where the p's and q's are primes, then $r = s$ and, after renumbering the q's, we have $p_i = q_i$ for all i.
- **Theorem First Principle of Mathematical Induction:** Let S be a set of integers containing a. Suppose S has the property that whenever some integer $n \geq a$ belongs to S, then the integer $n + 1$ also belongs to S. Then, S contains every integer greater than or equal to a.
- **Theorem Second Principle of Mathematical Induction:** Let S be a set of integers containing a. Suppose S has the property that n belongs to S whenever every integer less than n and greater than or equal to a belongs to S. Then, S contains every integer greater than or equal to a.
- **Theorem DeMoivre's Theorem:** For every positive integer n and every real number θ, $(\cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta))^n = \cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta$.

1 Introduction to Groups

- **Other?** D_4 **(Symmetries of a Square):** $D_4 = \{R_0, R_{90}, R_{180}, R_{270}, H, V, D, D'\}$.
- **Other?** D_n **(Dihedral Groups):** $D_n = \{R_0, R_{\cdot\frac{360}{n}}, \ldots, R_{(n-1)\cdot\frac{360}{n}}\} + n$ other flips across lines.

2 Groups

- **Definition Binary Operation:** Let G be a set. A *binary operation* on G is a function that assigns each ordered pair of elements of G an element of G.
- **Definition Group:** Let G be a set together with binary operation (usually called multiplication) that assigns to each ordered pair (a, b) of elements of G an element in G denoted by ab. We say G is a *group* under this operation if the following three properties are satisfied.
  1. *Associativity.* The operation is associative; that is, $(ab)c = a(bc)$ for all $a, b, c \in G$.
  2. *Identity.* There is an element e (called the *identity*) in G such that $ae = ea = a$ for all $a \in G$.
  3. *Inverses.* For each element a in G, there is an element b in G (called an *inverse* of a) such that $ab = ba = e$.
- **Theorem Uniqueness of Identity:** In a group G, there is only one identity element.
- **Theorem Uniqueness of Inverses:** For each element a in a group G, there is a unique element $b \in G$ such that $ab = ba = e$.
- **Theorem Cancellation:** In a group G, the right and left cancellation laws hold; that is, $ba = ca$ implies $b = c$ and $ab = ac$ implies $b = c$.

- **Theorem Socks-Shoes:** For group elements a and b, $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$.

3 Finite Groups; Subgroups

- **Definition Order of a Group:** The number of elements of a group (finite or infinite) is called its *order*. We will use $|G|$ to denote the order of G.
- **Definition Order of an Element:** The order of an element g is a group G is the smallest integer n such that $g^n = e$ (in additive notation, this would be $ng = 0$). If no such integer exists, we say that g was *infinite order*. The order of an element g is denoted $|g|$.
- **Definition Subgroup:** If a subset H of a group G is itself a group under the operation of G, we say that H is a *subgroup* of G.
- **Definition Center of a Group:** The *center*, $Z(G)$, of a group G is the subset of elements in G that commute with every element of G. In symbols,
$$Z(G) = \{a \in G | ax = xa,\ x \in G\}.$$
- **Definition Centralizer of a in G:** Let a be a fixed element of a group G. The *centralizer of a in G*, $C(G)$, is the set of all elements in G that commute with a. In symbols,
$$C(a) = \{g \in G | ga = ag\}.$$
- **Theorem One-Step Subgroup Test:** Let G be a group and H a nonempty subset of G. If ab^{-1} is in H whenever a, b are in H, then H is a subgroup of G (in additive notation, if $a - b$ is in H whenever a, b are in H, then H is a subgroup of G).
- **Theorem Two-Step Subgroup Test:** Let G be a group and let H be a nonempty subset of G. If ab is in H whenever a, b are in H (H is closed under the operation), and a^{-1} is in H whenever a is in H (H is closed under taking inverses), then H is a subgroup of G.
- **Theorem Finite Subgroup Test:** Let H be a nonempty finite subset of a group G. If H is closed under the operation G, then H is a subgroup of G.
- **Theorem Center of a Subgroup:** The center of a group G is a subgroup of G.
- **Theorem C(a) is a Subgroup:** For each a in a group G, the centralizer of a is a subgroup of G.

4 Cyclic Groups

- **Definition Euler φ−Function:** Let $\varphi(1) = 1$, and for any integer $n > 1$, let $\varphi(n)$ denote the number of positive integers less than n and relatively prime to n.

- **Theorem Criterion for $a^i = a^j$:** Let G be a group, and let $a \in G$. If a has infinite order, then $a^i = a^j$ if and only if $i = j$. If a has finite order, say n, then $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, \ldots, a^{n-1}\}$ and $a^i = a^j$ if and only if $n | i - j$.
- **Corollary $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$:** For any group element a, $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$.
- **Corollary $a^k = e$ Implies That $|a|$ divides k:** Let G be a group and let a be an element of order n in G. If $a^k = e$, then n divides k.
- **Corollary Relationship Between $|ab|$ and $|a||b|$:** If a and b belong to a finite group and $ab = ba$, then $|ab|$ divides $|a||b|$.
- **Theorem $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\mathsf{gcd}(n,k)} \rangle$ and $|a^k| = n/\mathsf{gcd}(n,k)$:** Let a be an element of order n in a group and let k be a positive integer. Then $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\mathsf{gcd}(n,k)} \rangle$ and $|a^k| = n/\mathsf{gcd}(n,k)$.
- **Corollary Orders of Elements in Finite Cyclic Groups:** In a finite cyclic group, the order of an element divides the order of a group.
- **Corollary 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 $\mathsf{gcd}(n,i) = \mathsf{gcd}(n,j)$, and $|a^i| = |a^j|$ if and only if $\mathsf{gcd}(n,i) = \mathsf{gcd}(n,j)$.
- **Corollary Generators of Finite Cyclic Groups:** Let $|a| = n$. Then $\langle a \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ if and only if $\mathsf{gcd}(n,j) = 1$, and $|a| = |\langle a^j \rangle|$ if and only if $\mathsf{gcd}(n,j) = 1$.
- **Corollary Generators of $\mathbb{Z}_n$:** An integer $k \in Z_n$ is a generator of Z_n if and only if $\mathsf{gcd}(n,k) = 1$.
- **Theorem The 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; and, for each positive divisor k of n, the group $\langle a \rangle$ has exactly one subgroup of order k–namely, $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$.
- **Corollary Subgroups of $\mathbb{Z}_n$:** For each positive divisor k of n, the set $\langle n/k \rangle$ is the unique subgroup of Z_n of order k; moreover, these are the only subgroups of Z_n.
- **Theorem Number of Elements of Each Order in a Cyclic Group:** If d is a positive divisor of n, the number of elements of order d in a cyclic group of order n is $\varphi(d)$.

5 Permutation Groups

- **Definition Permutation of A:** A *permutation* of a set A is a function from A to A that is both one-to-one and onto.
- **Theorem Products of Disjoint Cycles:** Every permutation of a finite set can be written as a cycle or as a product of disjoint cycles.
- **Theorem Disjoint Cycles Commute:** If the pair of cycles $\alpha = (a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_m)$ and $\beta = (b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_m)$ have no entries in common, then $\alpha\beta = \beta\alpha$.

- **Theorem Order of a Permutation:** The order of permutation of a finite set written in disjoint cycle form is the least common multiple of the lengths of the cycles.
- **Theorem Product of 2-Cycles:** Every permutation in S_n, $n > 1$, is a product of 2-cycles.
- **Theorem Always Even or Always Odd:** If a permutation α can be expressed as a product of an even (odd) number of 2-cycles, then every decomposition of α into a product of 2-cycles must have an even (odd) number of 2-cycles. In symbols, if

  $$\alpha = \beta_1\beta_2\cdots\beta_r \text{ and } \alpha = \gamma_1, \gamma_2\cdots\gamma_s,$$

  where the β's and γ's are 2-cycles, then r and s are both even or both odd.
- **Definition Even/Odd Permutations:** A permutation that can be expressed as a product of an even number of 2-cycles is called an *even* permutation. A permutation that can be expressed as a product of an odd number of 2-cycles is called an *odd* permutation.
- **Theorem Even Permutations From a Group:** The set of even permutations in S_n forms a subgroup of S_n.
- **Definition Alternating Group A_n:** The group of even permutations of n symbols is denoted by A_n and is called the *alternating group of degree n*.
- **Theorem $|A_n| = \frac{n!}{2}$:** For $n > 1$, A_n has order $\frac{n!}{2}$.

6 Isomorphisms

- **Definition Group Isomorphism:** An *isomorphism* ϕ from a group G onto a group $\overline{G}$ is a one-to-one mapping from G onto $\overline{G}$ that preserves the group operation. That is,

  $$\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b) \quad \forall a, b \in G.$$

  If there is an isomorphism from G onto $\overline{G}$, we say that G and $\overline{G}$ are *isomorphic* and write $G \approx \overline{G}$.
- **Theorem Cayley's Theorem:** Every group is isomorphic to a group of permutations.
- **Theorem Properties of Isomorphisms (acting on elements):** Suppose that ϕ is an isomorphism from a group G onto a group $\overline{G}$. Then,
  1. ϕ carries the identity of G to the identity of $\overline{G}$.
  2. For every integer n and for every group element $a \in G$, $\phi(a^n) = [\phi(a)]^n$.
  3. For any elements $a, b \in G$, a and b commute if and only if $\phi(a)$ and $\phi(b)$ commute.

4. $G = \langle a \rangle$ if and only if $\overline{G} = \langle \phi(a) \rangle$.
5. $|a| = |\phi(a)|$ for all $a \in G$.
6. For a fixed integer k and a fixed group element $b \in G$, the equation $x^k = b$ has the same number of solutions in G as does the equation $x^k = \phi(b)$ in $\overline{G}$.
7. If G is finite, then G and $\overline{G}$ have exactly the same number of elements of every order.

- Theorem **Properties of Isomorphisms (acting on groups):** Suppose that ϕ is an isomorphism from a group G onto a group $\overline{G}$. Then,
  1. ϕ^{-1} is an isomorphism from $\overline{G} onto G$.
  2. G is Abelian if and only if $\overline{G}$ is Abelian.
  3. G is cyclic if and only if $\overline{G}$ is cyclic.
  4. If K is a subgroup of G, then $\phi(K) = \{\phi(k) | k \in K\}$ is a subgroup of $\overline{G}$.
  5. If $\overline{K}$ is a subgroup of $\overline{G}$, then $\phi^{-1}(\overline{K}) = \{g \in G | \phi(g) \in \overline{K}\}$ is a subgroup of G.
  6. $\phi(Z(G)) = Z(\overline{G})$.
- Definition **Automorphism:** An isomorphism from a group G onto itself is called an automorphism.
- Definition **Inner Automorphism induced by a:** Let G be a group, and let $a \in G$. The function ϕ_a defined by $\phi_a = axa^{-1}$, $\forall x \in G$ is called the *inner automorphism of G induced by a*.
- Theorem **Aut(G) and Inn(G) Are Groups:** The set of automorphisms of a group and the set of inner automorphisms of a group are both groups under the operation of function composition.
- Theorem **Aut(Z_n) $\approx U(n)$:** For every positive integer n, Aut(Z_n) is isomorphic to $U(n)$.