



# *Groups and Rings*

PMATH 347



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# Preface

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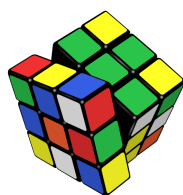
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## PART I:

# GROUP THEORY

It is important to realize, with or without the historical context, that the reason the abstract definitions are made is because it is useful to isolate specific characteristics and consider what structure is imposed on an object having these characteristics.

*Abstract Algebra, Third Edition*

# Introduction to Groups

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## 1.1 Binary Operations

week 1

If we randomly ask someone on the street: *What's math about?* The answer we might get is **numbers**. It always comes with **operations**.

Objects	Operations
Natural numbers $\mathbb{N}$	addition $+$ subtraction $-$ multiplication $\cdot$ division with remainders
Integers $\mathbb{Z}$	negation $x \mapsto -x$
Rational number $\mathbb{Q}$	multiplicative inversion $x \mapsto 1/x$
Real numbers $\mathbb{R}$	$k$ th roots, etc
$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$	modular arithmetic and operations

Then we realized that math is not just about numbers. We later have **elementary algebra**:

Objects	Operations
Expressions with variables	operations with variables
Functions	Pointwise operations $+$ , $-$ , $\cdot$ and Composition $\circ$

Then ..., and (leaving lots of stuff out), we have **linear algebra**:

Objects	Operations
Vectors	Vector addition $+$ , scalar multiplication $\cdot$
Matrices	$+$ , $-$ , scalar and matrix multiplication $\cdot$

Then *what's algebra about?*

Pre-university answer:

- manipulating expr involving indeterminates (variables):

If  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $ax = b$  and  $a \neq 0$ , then  $x = \frac{b}{a}$ .

- solving eqs by applying ops to both sides:  
If  $A, B$  are matrices,  $AX = B$  and  $A$  is invertible, then  $X = A^{-1}B$ .

**Key idea:** algebra is about operations

Then *what operations should we study?* Polynomials in several vars; functions, pointwise ops and function composition... *Are there other operations we should study?* Then we introduce **abstract algebra**: try to answer this question by studying operations abstractly, and seeing what the possibilities are.

### binary operation

A binary operation on a set  $X$  is a function  $b : X \times X \rightarrow X$ .

Notation:

- Any letter  $(b, m)$  or symbol  $(+, \cdot)$
- function notation

$$b : X \times X \rightarrow X : (x, y) \mapsto b(x, y)$$

or inline notation

$$+ : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} : (x, y) \mapsto x + y$$

Typically use inline notation with symbols and function notation with letters.

- There are lots of symbols to choose from:  $a + b, a \times b, a \cdot b, a \circ b, a \oplus b, a \otimes b, a \odot b, a \diamond b, a \heartsuit b, a \spadesuit b, a * b, a \bullet b, a \boxplus b, a \boxtimes b, a \uplus b$
- If there's no chance of confusion, can even drop symbol completely:

$$X \times X \rightarrow X : (a, b) \mapsto ab$$

### Example:

- Addition  $+$  is a binary op on  $\mathbb{N}$ , but subtraction  $-$  is not, since  $a - b$  is not necessarily a natural number.
- Subtraction  $=$  is a binary op on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .
- If  $(V, +, \cdot)$  is a vector space over a field  $\mathbb{K}$ , then  $+$  is a binary op on  $V$ , but  $\cdot$  is not, since  $\cdot$  is a function  $\mathbb{K} \times V \rightarrow V$ .<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>We'll define fields later, now think of  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .



**k-ary operation**

A  $k$ -ary operation on a set  $X$  is a function

$$\underbrace{X \times X \times \cdots X}_{k \text{ times}} \rightarrow X$$

A 1-ary operation is called a unary operation.

**Example:**

Negation  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} : x \mapsto -x$  is a unary operation.

Taking the multiplicative inverse  $x \mapsto 1/x$  is not a unary operation on  $\mathbb{Q}$ , since  $1/0$  is not defined, but it is a unary operation on

$$\mathbb{Q}^\times := \{a \in \mathbb{Q} : a \neq 0\}$$

Now let's discuss some properties that binary ops might satisfy.

## 1.2 Associativity and commutativity

**associative**

A binary operation  $\boxtimes : X \times X \rightarrow X$  is associative if

$$a \boxtimes (b \boxtimes c) = (a \boxtimes b) \boxtimes c$$

for all  $a, b, c \in X$ .

Many operations we've mentioned so far are associative:

- Addition and multiplication for  $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ , polynomials, and functions
- Vector addition, matrix addition and multiplication
- Modular addition and multiplication on  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$
- Function composition

Note that Subtraction and division are not associative. Subtraction is adding negative numbers, same for division. So we aren't that interested in subtraction and division, and focus on associative operations.

Here we introduce an informal definition: A **bracketing** of a sequence  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in X$  is a way of inserting brackets into  $a_1 \boxtimes \dots \boxtimes a_n$  so that the expression can be evaluated.

**Example:**

The bracketings of  $a_1, \dots, a_4$  are

$$a_1 \boxtimes (a_2 \boxtimes (a_3 \boxtimes a_4))$$

$$a_1 \boxtimes ((a_2 \boxtimes a_3) \boxtimes a_4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (a_1 \boxtimes a_2) \boxtimes (a_3 \boxtimes a_4) \\ & (a_1 \boxtimes (a_2 \boxtimes a_3)) \boxtimes a_4 \\ & ((a_1 \boxtimes a_2) \boxtimes a_3) \boxtimes a_4 \end{aligned}$$

### Proposition 1.1

A binary operation  $\boxtimes : X \times X \rightarrow X$  is associative if and only if for all finite sequences  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in X, n \geq 1$ , every bracketing of  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  evaluated to the same element of  $X$ .

### Note

If  $\boxtimes$  is associative, can use notation  $a_1 \boxtimes a_2 \boxtimes \dots \boxtimes a_n$  without choosing a bracketing.

### Proof:

$\Leftarrow$  The two bracketings  $a \boxtimes (b \boxtimes c)$  and  $(a \boxtimes b) \boxtimes c$  of  $a, b, c$  evaluate to the same element of  $X$  for all sequences of length 3.

$\Rightarrow$  Proof is by induction. Base cases are  $n = 1, 2, 3$ .

For  $n = 1, 2$ , there's only one bracketing. For  $n = 3$  follows from defn of associativity.

Suppose prop is true for all sequences of length  $k, 1 \leq k < n$ .

Let  $w$  be a bracketing of  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ .

$w = w_1 \boxtimes w_2$  where  $w_1$  is a bracketing of  $a_1, \dots, a_k, w_2$  is a bracketing of  $a_{k+1}, \dots, a_n$ , for some  $k < n$ .

By induction,

$$w_1 = (\dots((a_1 \boxtimes a_2) \boxtimes a_3) \dots \boxtimes a_k) \quad \text{and} \quad w_2 = (a_{k+1} \boxtimes \dots (a_{n-1} \boxtimes a_n) \dots)$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} w &= (\dots((a_1 \boxtimes a_2) \boxtimes a_3) \dots \boxtimes a_k) \boxtimes w_2 = (a_{k+1} \boxtimes \dots (a_{n-1} \boxtimes a_n) \dots) \\ &= (\dots(a_1 \boxtimes a_2) \dots \boxtimes a_{k-1}) \boxtimes (a_k \boxtimes (a_{k+1} \boxtimes \dots a_n) \dots) \\ &= \dots \\ &= (a_1 \boxtimes (a_2 \boxtimes \dots (a_n \boxtimes a_n) \dots)) \end{aligned}$$

□

### commutative

A binary operation  $\boxtimes : X \times X \rightarrow X$  is commutative (also known as abelian) if  $a \boxtimes b = b \boxtimes a$  for all  $a, b \in X$ .

**Fact** The word “abelian” comes from the surname of Niels Henrik Abel (1802-1829).

Many familiar operations are commutative: addition and multiplication on  $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ ; vector and matrix addition; modular addition and multiplication on  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . The following operation are **not** commutative: subtraction and division; function composition; matrix multiplication.

Therefore, subtraction and division are not commutative or associative. Function composition and matrix multiplication are not commutative, but are associative. We are not going to worry about the first type of operation, but we are interested in operations of the second type.

**First half of the course:** group theory – single associative operation, not necessarily commutative.

**Second half of the course:** ring theory – two associative operations (like addition and multiplication on  $\mathbb{Z}$ ), focus on commutative case.

## 1.3 Identities and inverses

Let  $\boxtimes$  be a binary operation on a set  $X$ .

### identity

An element  $e \in X$  is an identity for  $\boxtimes$  if

$$e \boxtimes x = x \boxtimes e = x$$

for all  $x \in X$ .

#### Example:

The zero element 0 of  $\mathbb{Z}$  is an identity for  $+$ .  $1 \in \mathbb{Q}$  is identity for  $\cdot$ .  $0 \in \mathbb{Q}$  is not identity for  $\cdot$ .

### Lemma 1.2

If  $e, e' \in X$  are both identities for  $\boxtimes$ , then  $e = e'$ .

#### Proof:

$$e = e \boxtimes e' = e'$$

□

### inverse

Let  $\boxtimes$  be a binary operation on  $X$  with identity element  $e$ . An element  $y$  is a left inverse for  $x$  (w.r.t.  $\boxtimes$ ) if  $y \boxtimes x = e$ , a right inverse if  $x \boxtimes y = e$ , and an inverse if  $x \boxtimes y = y \boxtimes x = e$ .

#### Example:

$-n$  is an inverse for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  w.r.t.  $+$ .

$n \in \mathbb{Z}$  does not have an inverse w.r.t.  $\cdot$  unless  $n = \pm 1$ .

If  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$  is non-zero, then  $1/x$  is an inverse of  $x$  w.r.t.  $\cdot$ . The element 0 does not have an inverse.

### Lemma 1.3

Let  $\boxtimes$  be an **associative** binary op with an identity  $e$ . If  $y_L$  and  $y_R$  are left and right inverse of  $x$  respectively, then  $y_L = y_R$ .

**Proof:**

$$y_L = y_L \boxtimes e = y_L \boxtimes (x \boxtimes y_R) = (y_L \boxtimes x) \boxtimes y_R = e \boxtimes y_R = y_R$$

□

### Corollary 1.4

- If  $x$  has both a left and right inverse, then  $x$  has an inverse.
- Inverses are unique.

### invertible

An element  $a$  is invertible if it has an inverse, in which case the inverse is denoted by  $a^{-1}$ .

### Exercise

It's possible to have a left (resp. right inverse), but not be invertible. Also, left and right inverses don't have to be unique (unless an element has both).

### Lemma 1.5

1. If  $\boxtimes$  has an identity  $e$ , then  $e$  is invertible, and  $e^{-1} = e$ .
2. If  $a$  is invertible, then so is  $a^{-1}$ , and  $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$ .
3. If  $\boxtimes$  is associative, and  $a$  and  $b$  are invertible, then so is  $a \boxtimes b$ , and  $(a \boxtimes b)^{-1} = b^{-1} \boxtimes a^{-1}$ .

**Proof:**

1.  $e \boxtimes e = e$
2.  $a \boxtimes a^{-1} = a^{-1} \boxtimes a = e$ , so  $a$  is clearly an inverse to  $a^{-1}$ .
3.  $(a \boxtimes b) \boxtimes (b^{-1} \boxtimes a^{-1}) = a \boxtimes (b \boxtimes b^{-1}) \boxtimes a^{-1} = a \boxtimes e \boxtimes a^{-1} = a \boxtimes a^{-1} = e$ , and similarly  $(b^{-1} \boxtimes a^{-1}) \boxtimes (a \boxtimes b) = e$ .

□

**Proposition 1.6**

Let  $\boxtimes$  be an associative binary operation on  $X$  with identity  $e$ , and let  $x$  and  $y$  be variables taking values in  $X$ .

An element  $a \in X$  is invertible if and only if the equations

$$a \boxtimes x = b \text{ and } y \boxtimes a = b$$

have unique solutions for all  $b \in X$ .

**Proof:**

$\Leftarrow$  A solution to  $ax = e$  is a right inverse of  $a$ , and a solution to  $ya = e$  is a left inverse. If  $a$  both have a left and right inverse, then it has an inverse.

$\Rightarrow$  Suppose  $a$  is invertible. Then

$$a \boxtimes (a^{-1}b) = (a \boxtimes a^{-1}) \boxtimes b = e \boxtimes b = b$$

so  $a^{-1} \boxtimes b$  is a solution to  $a \boxtimes x = b$ .

If  $x_0$  is a solution to  $a \boxtimes x = b$ , then

$$a^{-1} \boxtimes b = a^{-1} \boxtimes (a \boxtimes x_0) = (a^{-1} \boxtimes a) \boxtimes x_0 = e \boxtimes x_0 = x_0$$

So  $a^{-1} \boxtimes b$  is the unique solution to  $a \boxtimes x = b$ .

Similarly  $b \boxtimes a^{-1}$  is the unique solution to  $y \boxtimes a = b$ . □

**Proposition 1.7: Cancellation property**

Let  $\boxtimes$  be an associative binary operation, and  $a \in X$ . Then

1. If  $a$  has a left inverse and  $a \boxtimes u = a \boxtimes v$ , then  $u = v$ .
2. If  $a$  has a right inverse and  $u \boxtimes a = v \boxtimes a$ , then  $u = v$ .

**Proof:**

$$1. \quad u = a^{-1} \boxtimes a \boxtimes u = a^{-1} \boxtimes a \boxtimes v = v$$

2. similar. □

1 and 2 also hold for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  w.r.t.  $\cdot$  if  $n \geq 0$ , even though  $n$  is not invertible for  $n \neq \pm 1$ .

## 1.4 Groups

### group

A **group** is a pair  $(G, \boxtimes)$ , where

1.  $G$  is a set, and
2.  $\boxtimes$  is an associative binary operation on  $G$  such that
  - (a)  $\boxtimes$  has an identity  $e$ , and
  - (b) every element  $g \in G$  is invertible with respect to  $\boxtimes$ .

### abelian

A group is **abelian** (or commutative) if  $\boxtimes$  is abelian.

### finite

A group is **finite** if  $G$  is a finite set.

### order

The **order** of  $G$  is the number of elements in  $G$  if  $G$  is finite, and  $+\infty$  if  $G$  is infinite. The order of  $G$  is denoted by  $|G|$ .

### 1.4.1 Terminology

Usually we refer to  $(G, \boxtimes)$  simply as  $G$ , and just assume the operation is given. (Note: we still need to clearly specify the operation for each group we work with).

It's cumbersome to write  $\boxtimes$  all the time, so usually we use one of the following options:

- Use  $\cdot$  as the standard symbol, write  $g \cdot h$  for the product of  $g, h \in G$
- Drop the symbol entirely, write  $gh$  for the product of  $g, h \in G$ .

The identity of  $G$  is denoted by  $e$  (or  $e_G$  when we want to make the group clear).  $1$  and  $1_G$  are also used.

Since every element of a group  $G$  is invertible,  $g^{-1}$  is defined for all  $g \in G$ . The function  $G \rightarrow G : g \mapsto g^{-1}$  can be regarded as a unary operation on  $G$ .

Consider  $\iota : G \rightarrow G : g \mapsto g^{-1}$ . Since  $(g^{-1})^{-1} = g$ ,  $\iota \circ \iota = \text{Id}_G$ , the identity map  $G \rightarrow G$ . In particular,  $\iota$  is a bijection, both injective and surjective.

If  $g \in G$ , then

$$g^n := \underbrace{g \cdots g}_{n \text{ times}} \text{ and } g^{-n} := (g^{-1})^n = (g^n)^{-1}$$

**Exercise**

If  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $(g^n)^m = g^{mn}$ .

If  $g, h \in G$ , then

$$(gh)^n = ghgh \cdots gh,$$

which is not necessarily the same as  $g^n h^n$  if  $G$  is not abelian.

**Example: Groups**

$\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  are all groups under operation  $+$ . The identity is 0 and the inverse of  $n$  is  $-n$ . These groups have infinite order. They are infinite abelian groups.

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is also a group under  $+$ . The identity is  $0 = [0]$ , and the inverse of  $[m]$  is  $-[m] = [-m]$ . This group is finite, with order  $|\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}| = n$ . It is a finite abelian group.

If  $(V, +, \cdot)$  is a vector space, then  $(V, +)$  is group. The identity element is 0, and the inverse of  $v$  is  $-v$ .

**Example: Not a group?! & Trivial group**

$\mathbb{Z}$  is not a group with respect to  $\cdot$ , since most elements do not have an inverse.

$\mathbb{Q}$  is also not a group with respect to  $\cdot$ , since 0 does not have an inverse.

$\mathbb{Q}^\times$  is a group with respect to  $\cdot$ .

Every group has to contain at least one element, the identity. So the simplest possible group is  $\{1\}$  with operation  $1 \cdot 1 = 1$ . This is called the **trivial group**.

## A non-abelian example

All the examples previously are abelian.

Let  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$  denote the invertible  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in a field  $\mathbb{K}$ .

**Proposition 1.8**

$\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$  is a group under matrix multiplication (called the **general linear group**). For  $n \geq 2$ ,  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$  is non-abelian.

**Proof:**

If  $A$  and  $B$  are invertible matrices, then  $AB$  is also invertible, so matrix multiplication is an associative binary operation  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$ . The identity matrix is an identity, and every element has an inverse by definition, so  $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$  is a group.

**Exercise**

Find matrices  $A, B$  such that  $AB \neq BA$ .

□

### 1.4.2 Additive notation

Standard notation for operation in a group is  $gh$ . This is called **multiplicative notation**. For groups like  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ , it is confusion to write  $mn$  instead of  $m + n$ , since  $mn$  already has another meaning. For abelian groups  $G$ , there is another convention called **additive notation**. In additive notation, we write the group operation as  $g + h$ . The identity is denoted by  $0$  or  $0_G$ . Inverse are denoted by  $-g$ . Writing  $g^n$  in additive notation gives

$$\underbrace{g + g + \dots + g}_{n \text{ times}},$$

so rather than  $g^n$  we use  $ng$ . Similarly  $g^{-n}$  is  $-ng$ .

For nonabelian groups we always use multiplicative notation. For abelian groups, we can choose either.

Note the potential for conflict between the two conventions. We must be clear about what convention we are using!

For groups like  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ , we could denote the operation by  $mn$ , but it's clearer to write  $m + n$ . For groups like  $(Q^\times, \cdot)$ , we could denote the operation by  $x + y$ , but it is clearer to write  $x \cdot y$  or  $xy$ .

### 1.4.3 Multiplicative table

#### multiplicative table

The multiplicative table of a group  $G$  is a table with rows and columns indexed by the elements of  $G$ . The cell for row  $g$  and column  $h$  contains the product  $gh$ .

The multiplication table contains the complete info of the group  $G$ . It is defined for finite and infinite groups, but makes the most sense for finite groups.

**Example:**  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

The multiplication table for  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  is

	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

Multiplicative notation	Additive notation
$g \cdot h$ or $gh$	$g + h$
$e_G$ or $1_G$	$0_G$
$g^{-1}$	$-g$
$g^n$	$ng$

Table 1.1: Comparison between multiplicative and additive notation



### 1.4.4 Order of elements

#### order

If  $G$  is a group, then the order  $g \in G$  is

$$|g| := \min\{k \geq 1 : g^k = e_G\} \cup \{+\infty\}$$

Some easy properties:

- $|g| = 1$  if and only if  $g = e_G$ .
- If  $g^n = 1$ , then  $g^{n-1}g = gg^{n-1} = g^n = 1$ , so  $g^{n-1} = g^{-1}$ . In particular, if  $|g| = n < +\infty$ , then  $g^{-1} = g^{n-1}$ .

**Example:**  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

We use additive notation for  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ , so  $g^n$  is written as  $ng$ ,  $e = 0$ . For this group,  $k1 = 0$  if and only if  $n$  divides  $k$ , so  $|1| = n$ .

#### Lemma 1.9

$g^n = e$  if and only if  $g^{-n} = e$ , so in particular  $|g| = |g^{-1}|$ .

**Proof:**

We have  $g^{-n} = (g^n)^{-1}$ . Since  $g \mapsto g^{-1}$  is a bijection,

$$g^n = e \text{ if and only if } (g^n)^{-1} = e^{-1} = e.$$

But  $g^{-n}$  also equals  $(g^{-1})^n$ , so

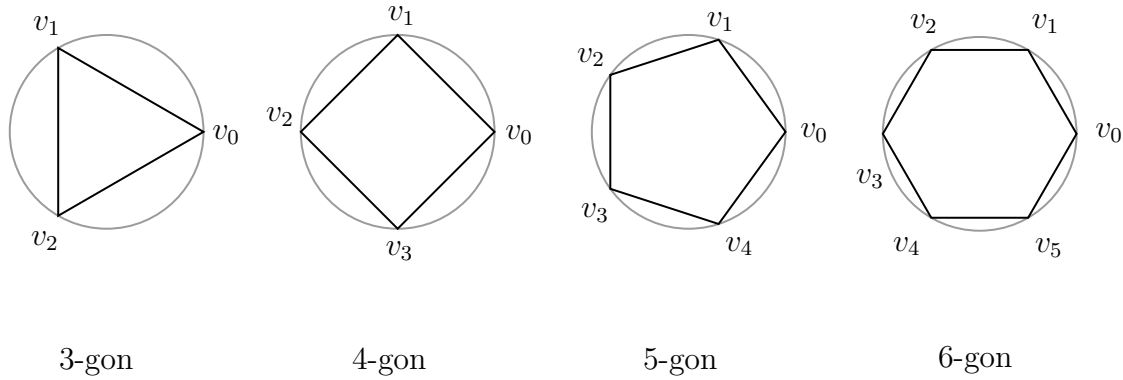
$$\{k \geq 1 : g^k = e\} = \{k \geq 1 : (g^{-1})^k = e\}$$

and this implies  $|g| = |g^{-1}|$ . □

## 1.5 Dihedral groups

#### n-gon

A regular polygon  $P_n$  with  $n$  vertices,  $n \geq 3$ , is called an  $n$ -gon.



To be specific: set  $v_k = (\cos 2\pi k/n, \sin 2\pi k/n) = e^{2\pi i k/n}$

Get  $n$ -gon by drawing line segment from  $v_k$  to  $v_{k+1}$  for all  $0 \leq k \leq n$  (where  $v_n := v_0$ )

### symmetry

A symmetry of the  $n$ -gon  $P_n$  is an invertible linear transformation  $T \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $T(P_n) = P_n$ .

### dihedral group

The set of symmetries of  $P_n$  is called the dihedral group, and is denoted by  $D_{2n}$  (or  $D_n$ ).

In this course, we use  $D_{2n}$ .

#### Note

We think of matrices and invertible linear transformations interchangeably.

Matrix multiplication = composition of transformations.

### Proposition 1.10

$D_{2n}$  is a group under composition.

#### Proof:

Later. Key point:  $S, T \in D_{2n} \implies ST \in D_{2n}$ . □

$v_i$  and  $v_j$  are **adjacent** in  $P_n$  if connected by line segment.

### Lemma 1.11

1. If  $T \in D_{2n}$  then  $(T(v_0), T(v_1))$  are adjacent
2. If  $S, T \in D_{2n}$  and  $S(v_i) = T(v_i)$ ,  $i = 0, 1$  then  $S = T$ .

**Proof:**

1.  $v_0, v_1$  are adjacent,  $T$  is linear
2.  $v_0$  and  $v_1$  are linearly independent.

□

### Corollary 1.12

$$|D_{2n}| \leq 2n$$

**Proof:**

Let  $A$  be the set of adjacent pairs  $(v_i, v_j)^a$ , so  $|A| = 2n$ . By Lemma 1.11,  $D_{2n} \rightarrow A : T \mapsto (T(v_0), T(v_1))$  is well-defined and injective. □

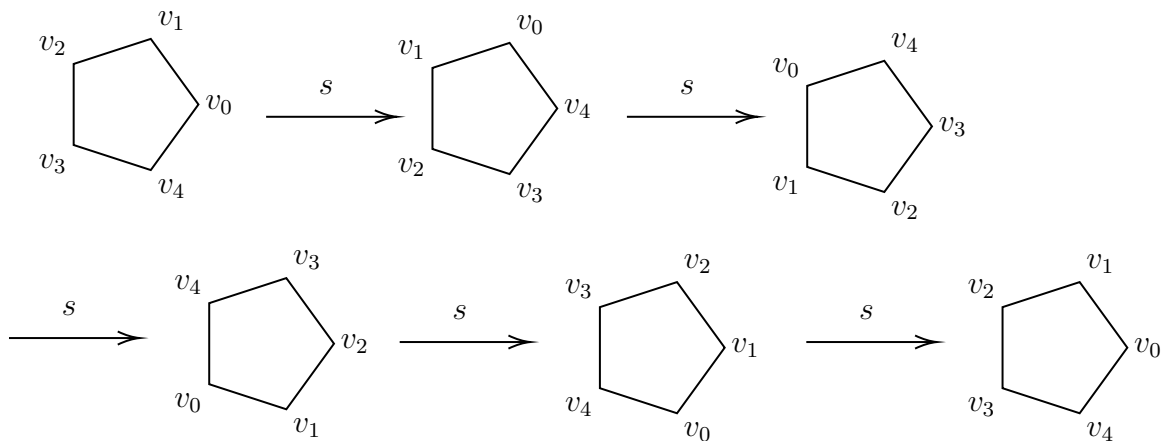
<sup>a</sup>ordered pairs

For every pair of adjacent vertices  $(v_i, v_j)$ , is there an element  $T \in D_{2n}$  with  $T(v_0) = v_i, T(v_1) = v_j$ ?

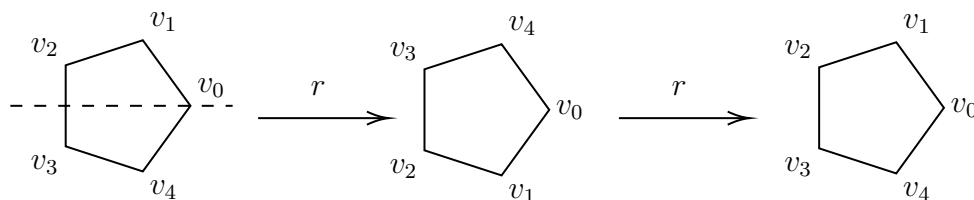
If the answer is yes, then  $|D_{2n}| = 2n$ .

### 1.5.1 Special elements of $D_{2n}$

Let  $s \in D_{2n}$  be rotation by  $2\pi/n$  radians, so  $|s| = n$  (i.e.,  $s^n = e, s^k \neq e$  for  $1 \leq k < n$ ).



Let  $r$  be reflection through the  $x$ -axis:



$$|r| = 2, \text{ i.e. } r^2 = e, r \neq e.$$

$r(v_0) = v_0$ .  $r(v_1)$  is now the vertex before  $v_0$ , rather than the vertex after  $v_0$ .

If we try to put these two elements together:

1.  $s^i, 0 \leq i < n$ : sends  $v_0 \mapsto v_i, v_1 \mapsto v_{i+1}$  (notes:  $v_n = v_0, s^0$  is the identity)
2.  $s^i r, 0 \leq i < n$ : sends  $v_0 \mapsto v_i, v_1 \mapsto v_{i-1}$  (notes:  $v_{-1} = v_{n-1}$ )



### Proposition 1.13

$D_{2n} = \{s^i r^j : 0 \leq i < n, 0 \leq j < 2\}$ , so  $|D_{2n}| = 2n$ .

What is  $rs$ ?

$rs(v_0) = r(v_1) = v_{n-1}$  and  $rs(v_1) = r(v_2) = v_{n-2}$ . So

$$rs = s^{n-1}r = s^{-1}r$$

### Corollary 1.14

$D_{2n}$  is a finite nonabelian group.

#### Exercise

$$D_{2n} = \{s^i r^j : 0 \leq i < n, 0 \leq j < 2\}$$

$$|D_{2n}| = 2n$$

$$s^n = e, r^2 = e, rs = s^{-1}r$$

These relations are enough to completely determine  $D_{2n}$ .

What's group theory about?

Basic answer: study sets with one binary op. A better answer: group theory is study of symmetry. If we resize or rotate  $P_n$ , then symmetries are the same.

Kleinian view of geometry:

- $D_{2n}$  captures what it means to be a regular  $n$ -gon
- More generally, geometry is about study of symmetries

## 1.6 Permutation groups

If  $X$  is a set, let  $\text{Fun}(X, X)$  be set of functions  $X \rightarrow X$ . Then

$$\circ : \text{Fun}(X, X) \times \text{Fun}(X, X) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(X, X) : (f, g) \mapsto f \circ g$$

is an associative operation with an identity  $\text{Id}_X$ . Let  $S_X = \{f \in \text{Fun}(X, X) : f \text{ is a bijection}\}$

### Proposition 1.15

$S_X$  is a group under  $\circ$ .

**Proof:**

See homework. □

### symmetric/permutation group

Let  $n \geq 1$ . The symmetric group (or permutation group)  $S_n$  is the group  $S_X$  with  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ .

Elements of  $S_n$  are bijections  $\pi : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$

*What makes a function  $\pi : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}$  a bijection?*

Every element of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  must appear in the list  $\pi(1), \dots, \pi(n)$ , and no element can appear twice ( $\Leftarrow$  redundant by pigeon-hole principle.)

*How many elements in  $S_n$ ?*

$n$  choices for  $\pi(1)$ ,  $n - 1$  choices for  $\pi(2)$ ,  $\dots$ , 1 choice for  $\pi(n)$ . So  $n(n - 1) \cdots 1 = n!$  choices  $\implies |S_n| = n!$ .

Note  $|S_1| = 1! = 1$ , so  $S_1$  is the trivial group.

## 1.6.1 Representations

Elements of  $S_n$  are called **permutations**. There are a number of different ways to represent permutations:

### 1. Two-line representation:

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 6 & 5 & 1 & 4 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

### 2. One-line representation:

$$\pi = 651423$$

This representation saves space than the previous one, but it is hard to do operations in group theory. The one below seems counter-intuitive, but convenient for doing operations.

### 3. Note $\pi(1) = 6, \pi(6) = 3, \pi(3) = 1$ . Say (163) is a **cycle** of $\pi$ .

**Disjoint cycle representation:** write down cycles of  $\pi$

$$\pi = (163)(25)(4) = (163)(25)$$

We typically drop cycles of length 1.

Identity is empty in disjoint cycle notation, so just use  $e$ .

The convention is that we start from the lowest item in the cycle, and sort the cycles by their lowest items.

## Multiplication

Multiplication can be done in two-line or disjoint cycle notation

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 6 & 5 & 1 & 4 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = (163)(25)$$

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 6 & 4 & 5 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = (126)(345)$$

$$\pi\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 5 & 3 & 4 & 2 & 1 & 6 \end{pmatrix} = (15)(234)$$

Note  $i$  comes from the right:  $\pi(\sigma(i))$ .

(It's a bit of a pain in one-line notation, so we don't use one-line notation often in group theory)

## Inversion

We can also take inverse in two-line or disjoint cycle notation

$$\pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 6 & 5 & 1 & 4 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = (163)(25)$$

$$\pi^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 5 & 1 & 4 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{*}{=} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 5 & 6 & 4 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = (136)(25)$$

\*: swap two rows and sort the columns by the first row. Disjoint cycle notation is even easier.

If  $\pi(i) = j$ , then  $\pi^{-1}(j) = i$ , so cycles of  $\pi^{-1}$  are cycles of  $\pi$  in opposite order.

### fixed points

The fixed points of a permutation  $\pi \in S_n$  are the numbers  $1 \leq i \leq n$  such that  $\pi(i) = i$ .

### support set

The support set of  $\pi \in S_n$  is

$$\text{supp}(\pi) = \{1 \leq i \leq n : \pi(i) \neq i\}$$

### disjoint

$\pi$  and  $\sigma$  are disjoint if  $\text{supp}(\pi) \cap \text{supp}(\sigma) = \emptyset$

#### Example:

$$\text{supp}((163)(25)) = \{1, 2, 3, 5, 6\}$$

#### Remark:

In general,  $\text{supp}(\pi)$  are numbers that appear in disjoint cycle representation of  $\pi$  (when cycles of length one are dropped).

$$\text{supp}(\pi) = \emptyset \text{ if and only if } \pi = e$$

$$\text{supp}(\pi^{-1}) = \text{supp}(\pi)$$

If  $i \in \text{supp}(\pi)$ , then  $\pi(i) \in \text{supp}(\pi)$

### commute

Two elements  $g, h$  in a group  $G$  commute if  $gh = hg$ .

### Lemma 1.16

If  $\pi, \sigma \in S_n$  are disjoint, then  $\pi\sigma = \sigma\pi$ .

#### Proof:

Suppose  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . If  $i \in \text{supp}(i)$ , then  $\pi(i) \in \text{supp}(\pi)$ . Since  $\pi, \sigma$  disjoint,  $i, \pi(i) \notin \text{supp}(\sigma)$ . So  $\pi(\sigma(i)) = \pi(i) = \sigma(\pi(i))$ .

By symmetry,  $\pi(\sigma(i)) = \sigma(\pi(i))$  if  $i \in \text{supp}(\sigma)$ .

If  $i \notin \text{supp}(\pi) \cup \text{supp}(\sigma)$ , then  $\pi(\sigma(i)) = i = \sigma(\pi(i))$ .

So  $\pi(\sigma(i)) = \sigma(\pi(i))$  for all  $i \implies \pi\sigma = \sigma\pi$ . □

## 1.6.2 Cycles

### k-cycle

A  $k$ -cycle is an element of  $S_n$  with disjoint cycle notation  $(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k)$ .

Suppose cycles of  $\pi \in S_n$  are  $c_1, \dots, c_k$ . We can regard  $c_i$  as an element of  $S_n$ ,  $\pi = c_1 \cdot c_2 \cdots c_k$  as product in  $S_n$ .  $c_i$  and  $c_j$  are disjoint, so  $c_i c_j = c_j c_i$ . Note that order of cycles in disjoint cycle representation doesn't matter.

#### Example:

$$\pi = (163)(25) = (25) \cdot (163)$$

We can also get an interesting prospective on this formula for the inverse of  $\pi$  in the disjoint cycle notation. If  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  are cycles of  $\pi$ , then  $\pi^{-1} = c_1^{-1} c_2^{-1} \cdots c_k^{-1}$  as product in  $S_n$ .

$c_i$  and  $c_j$  are disjoint, so  $c_i c_j = c_j c_i$ .  
 $\pi^{-1} = c_k^{-1} \cdots c_1^{-1} = c_1^{-1} \cdots c_k^{-1}$

**Example:**

If  $c$  and  $c'$  are non-disjoint cycles, then they don't necessarily commute:

$$(12)(23) = (123) \text{ while } (23)(12) = (123)^{-1} = (132) \neq (12)(23).$$

If  $\pi$  is a permutation, then  $\pi$  commutes with  $\pi^i$  for all  $i$  since  $\pi^{i+1} = \pi\pi^i = \pi^i\pi$ , so  $\pi$  and  $\pi^i$  commute. However, note that they don't necessarily have disjoint support sets.



# Subgroups

## 2.1 Subgroups

week 2

### subgroup

Let  $(G, \cdot)$  be a group. A subset  $H \subseteq G$  is a **subgroup** if

- (a) for all  $g, h \in H$ ,  $g \cdot h \in H$  ( $H$  is **closed under products**),
- (b) for all  $g \in H$ ,  $g^{-1} \in H$  ( $H$  is **closed under inverses**), and
- (c)  $e_G \in H$ .

Notation  $H \leq G$ .

#### Example:

$$\mathbb{Z} \leq \mathbb{Q}^+ := (\mathbb{Q}, +)$$

$$\mathbb{Q}_{>0} := \{x \in \mathbb{Q} : x > 0\} \leq \mathbb{Q}^\times.$$

To check this: if  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $x, y > 0$ , then  $xy > 0 \implies xy \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ .

Also, if  $x > 0$ , then  $1/x > 0 \implies 1/x \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}$ .

#### Example: More complicated

Let  $G = D_{2n}$ ,  $s$  rotation.

$H = e = s^0, s, s^2, \dots, s^{n-1}$  is a subgroup of  $D_{2n}$ .

**Proof:**

**Claim**  $s^i \in H$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof** Let  $i = nk + r, 0 \leq r < n$ . Then  $s^i = s^{nk+r} = (s^n)^k s^r = s^r$ , since  $s^n = e$ . ■

Now check subgroup: if  $s^i, s^j \in H$ , then  $s^{i+j} \in H$ . If  $s^i \in H$ , then  $s^{-i} \in H$ . Finally,  $e \in H$  by construction. □

$H$  is the smallest subgroup containing  $s$ . The notation for  $H$  is  $\langle s \rangle$ .

**Example:**  $\mathbb{Z}$

Let  $G = \mathbb{Z} = (\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

If  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $m\mathbb{Z} := \{km : k \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \{n \in \mathbb{Z} : m|n\}$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

In particular, if  $m = 0$ , then  $0\mathbb{Z} = \{0\}$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , which is called the **trivial subgroup**.

### trivial subgroup

If  $G$  is a group,  $\{e\}$  is a subgroup called the **trivial subgroup**.

### proper subgroup

Also,  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . A subgroup  $H$  is **proper** if  $H \neq G$ . Notation:  $H < G$ .

$H$  is proper nontrivial subgroup if  $\{e\} \neq H < G$ .

**Example: Not subgroups**

$\mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0} := \{x \in \mathbb{Q} : x \geq 0\}$  is not a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Q}^+$ . We can verify as follows: If  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ , then  $x + y \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ . Also  $0 \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ . But if  $x \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$ , then  $-x \notin \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$  unless  $x = 0$ .

$\mathbb{Q}^\times$  is not a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Q}, \cdot)$  because  $(\mathbb{Q}, \cdot)$  is not a group.

### Proposition 2.1

If  $H$  is a subgroup of  $(G, \boxtimes)$ , then  $(H, \boxtimes|_{H \times H})$  is a group, such that

- (a) the identity of  $H$  is  $e_H = e_G$ , and
- (b) the inverse of  $g \in H$  is the same as the inverse of  $g$  in  $G$ .

**Proof:**

First, why is  $\boxtimes|_{H \times H}$  a binary operation on  $H$ ?

Recall  $\boxtimes$  is a function  $G \boxtimes G \rightarrow G$  which implies  $\boxtimes|_{H \times H}$  is a function  $H \times H \rightarrow G$  if we restrict its domain. But if  $g, h \in H$ , then  $g \boxtimes h \in H$ . So we can think of  $\boxtimes|_{H \times H}$  as function  $H \times H \rightarrow H$ . For the rest of this proof, we just denote this function by  $\boxtimes$ .

Since  $\boxtimes$  is associative,  $\tilde{\boxtimes}$  is also associative.

$e_H = e_G$  is identity for  $\tilde{\boxtimes}$ .

If  $g \in H$ , then inverse  $g^{-1}$  with respect to  $\boxtimes$  is in  $H$  by the definition of subgroup.

Since  $g\tilde{\boxtimes}g^{-1} = g\boxtimes g^{-1} = e_G = e_H$ , and similarly  $g^{-1}\boxtimes g = e_H$ ,  $g^{-1}$  is inverse of  $g$  with respect to  $\tilde{\boxtimes}$ .

So  $(H, \tilde{\boxtimes})$  is a group. □

Call  $\tilde{\boxtimes}$  the **operation induced by  $\boxtimes$  on  $H$** . Usually just refer to  $\tilde{\boxtimes}$  as  $\boxtimes$ .

**Example:**

$\mathbb{Z}$  is subgroup  $\mathbb{Q}$  with operation  $+$ .

If  $H$  is group of  $(G, \cdot)$ , then  $H$  is group with operation  $\cdot$ .

### Proposition 2.2

$H$  is subgroup if and only if

- (a)  $H$  is non-empty, and
- (b)  $gh^{-1} \in H$  for all  $g, h \in H$ .

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$  If  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , then  $e_G \in H$ , so  $H \neq \emptyset$ . Also if  $g, h \in H$ , then  $h^{-1} \in H$ , so  $gh^{-1} \in H$ .

$\Leftarrow$  By (a), there is some element  $x \in H$ . In part (b), let  $g = h := x$ , then  $xx^{-1} = e_G = e_H \in H$ .

Also by (b),  $e_G \cdot x^{-1} = x^{-1} \in H$  (closed under inverses).

If  $x, y \in H$ , then  $y^{-1} \in H$ , so  $xy = x(y^{-1})^{-1} \in H$  (closed under inverses). □

**Example:**

Let  $(V, +, \cdot)$  be a vector space.

If  $W$  is a subspace of  $V$ , then  $W$  is a subgroup of  $(V, +)$ .

Check:

- $0 \in W$  so  $W$  is non-empty.
- If  $v, w \in W$ , then  $v - w \in W$ .

Conclusion:  $W$  is subgroup.

### Proposition 2.3

Suppose  $H$  is a finite subset of  $G$ . Then  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if

- (a)  $H$  is non-empty, and
- (b)  $gh \in H$  for all  $g, h \in H$ .

#### Proof:

Since  $H$  is nonempty, suppose  $g \in H$ . By induction, we can show  $g^n \in H$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $H$  is finite, sequence  $g, g^2, g^3, \dots \in H$  must eventually repeat. So  $g^i = g^j$  for some  $1 \leq i < j \implies g^n = e$  for  $n = j - i$ . Since  $i < j$ , then  $n \geq 1$ , therefore  $g^n = e \in H$ .

Now we need to show it is closed under inverses.

- $n = 1$ , then  $g = e = g^{-1}$ .
- $n > 1$ , then  $g^{n-1} = g^{-1} \in H$ .

□

## 2.2 Subgroups generated by a set

### Proposition 2.4

Suppose  $\mathcal{F}$  is a non-empty set of subgroups of  $G$ . Then

$$L := \bigcap_{H \in \mathcal{F}} H$$

is a subgroup of  $G$ .

#### Proof:

First we check it is non-empty. Since  $e_G \in H$  for all  $H \in \mathcal{F}$ , then  $e_G \in K \implies K$  is non-empty.

Suppose  $x, y \in K$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \implies x, y &\in H & \forall H \in \mathcal{F} \\ \implies y^{-1} &\in H & \forall H \in \mathcal{F} \\ \implies xy^{-1} &\in H & \forall H \in \mathcal{F} \\ \implies xy^{-1} &\in K \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 2.3,  $K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

□

### subgroup generated by $S$ in $G$

Let  $S$  be a subset of group  $G$ . The **subgroup generated by  $S$  in  $G$**  is

$$\langle S \rangle := \bigcap_{S \subseteq H \leq G} H$$

**Note**

Intersection is non-empty because  $S \subseteq G \leq G$ .

If  $S \subseteq K \leq G$ , then  $\langle S \rangle \subseteq K$ . So say that  $\langle S \rangle$  is smallest subgroup of  $G$  containing  $S$ .

To simplify the notation: If  $S = \{s_1, s_2, \dots\}$ , often write  $\langle S \rangle = \langle s_1, s_2, \dots \rangle$ .

We can write the trivial subgroup as  $\langle \emptyset \rangle = \langle e \rangle = \{e\}$ .

**Example:**  $D_{2n}$ 

Let  $s$  be the rotation generator of  $D_{2n}$ . Let  $K = \{s^0 = e, s^1, s^2, \dots, s^{n-1}\}$ .

As previously checked,  $K$  is a subgroup of  $D_{2n}$ .

Since  $s \in K, \langle s \rangle \subseteq K$ .

On the other hand, can show by induction that  $s^i \subseteq \langle s \rangle$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

So  $K \subseteq \langle s \rangle \implies \langle s \rangle = K$ .

$\langle s \rangle$  is constructed by taking all products of  $s$  with itself. Can we generalize this example?

Here we introduce a notation: If  $S \subset G$ , let  $S^{-1} = \{s^{-1} : s \in S\}$ .

**Proposition 2.5**

If  $S \subset G$ , let

$$K = \{e\} \cup \{s_1 \cdots s_k : k \geq 1, s_1, \dots, s_k \in S \cup S^{-1}\}$$

Then  $\langle S \rangle = K$ .

**Proof:**

**Claim 1**  $S \subseteq K \subseteq \langle S \rangle$

**Proof** It is easy to show that  $S \subseteq K$ . We simply let  $k = 1$  and  $s_1$  to be any element of  $S$ .

To show the second part, we know  $e \in \langle S \rangle$ . Then we can prove by induction that  $s_1 \cdots s_k \in \langle S \rangle$  for all  $k \geq 1, s_1, \dots, s_k \in S \cup S^{-1}$ . ■

**Claim 2**  $K$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**Proof**  $e \in K$  by construction.

Suppose  $x, y \in K$ ,

$$x = s_1 \cdots s_k, k \geq 0, s_1, \dots, s_k \in S \cup S^{-1}$$

$$y = t_1 \cdots t_\ell, \ell \geq 0, t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in S \cup S^{-1}$$

Then  $xy = s_1 \cdots s_k t_1 \cdots t_\ell \in K$  by construction. Also,  $x^{-1} = s_k^{-1} \cdots s_1^{-1} \in K$  since  $s_k^{-1}, \dots, s_1^{-1} \in S \cup S^{-1}$ . So  $K$  is a subgroup. ■

$S \subseteq K$ , and  $\langle S \rangle$  is smallest subgroup containing  $S \implies \langle S \rangle \subseteq K$ . Thus  $\langle S \rangle = K$ . □

### 2.2.1 Lattice of subgroups

Before concluding this section, it is interesting to mention one closed related subject which the lattice of subgroups of  $G$ .

Subgroups of  $G$  are ordered by set inclusion  $\subseteq$ . If  $H_1, H_2 \leq G$ , and  $H_1 \subseteq H_2$ , then  $H_1 \leq H_2$ , so we also write this order as  $\leq$ . Set of subgroups of  $G$  with order  $\leq$  is called the **lattice of subgroups of  $G$** . We don't need to deal with formal definitions and properties here.

The picture below shows the subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $k\mathbb{Z}$  denotes the set containing all integers that are divisible by  $k$ .



Subgroup below  $H_1, H_2 \leq G$  in the lattice is  $H_1 \cap H_2$ . In the picture above, it is  $2\mathbb{Z} \cap 3\mathbb{Z} = 6\mathbb{Z}$ . Intuitively, a number is divisible by 2 and 3, which is the same thing as being divisible by 6.

What about the subgroup above  $H_1$  and  $H_2$ ? The subgroup above  $H_1, H_2$  is  $\langle H_1 \cup H_2 \rangle$ .

## 2.3 Cyclic groups

### generate

A subset  $S$  of a group  $G$  **generates**  $G$  if  $\langle S \rangle = G$ .

### cyclic

A group  $G$  is **cyclic** if  $G = \langle a \rangle$  for some  $a \in G$ .

#### Example:

$\mathbb{Z} = \langle 1 \rangle = \langle -1 \rangle$  (generators are not unique)

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \langle [1] \rangle = \langle -[1] \rangle$

$\mathbb{Q}^+$  is not cyclic

If  $G$  is a group, then  $\langle a \rangle$  is a cyclic group for any  $a \in G$  (called the **cyclic subgroup generated by  $a$** ).

## Lemma 2.6

1. If  $a \in G$ , then  $\langle a \rangle = \{a^i : i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .
2. If  $|a| = n$ , then  $\langle a \rangle = \{a^i : 0 \leq i < n\}$ .

**Proof:**

1. Follows from Proposition 2.5 about  $\langle S \rangle$ .
2. See argument for  $\langle s \rangle$  in  $D_{2n}$ .

□

**Remark:**

In the first part of Lemma 2.6, it does not mean each element in the subgroup can be uniquely represented in the form of  $a^i$ .

Then we have two questions:

- In (2), can  $|\langle a \rangle|$  be smaller than  $n$ ?
- Does  $|\langle a \rangle|$  determine  $|a|$ ?

## Proposition 2.7

If  $G = \langle a \rangle$ , then  $|G| = |a|$ .

This proposition also applies to infinite groups.

**Proof:**

From part 2 of Proposition 2.6, we know that there are at most  $n$  elements in  $\langle a \rangle$ , then  $|G| \leq |a|$ .

Suppose  $|G| = n < +\infty$ . Then the sequence  $a^0, a^1, \dots, a^n \in G$  must have repetition. Thus there is  $0 \leq i < j \leq n$  with  $a^i = a^j$ . Then with the similar argument before,  $a^{j-i} = e$ , which implies that  $|a| \leq n$ .

Thus  $|a| \leq |G| \implies |a| = |G|$ .

□

**Remark:**

It is worth thinking that what happens if  $|G| = \infty$  and it seems the proof only works with finite order. If  $|G| = \infty$ , then  $|G| \leq |a|$  will force  $|a|$  to be infinite.

**Example:**  $\mathbb{Z}$ 

$G = \mathbb{Z}$ :

- Infinite cyclic group
- Generators are  $+1$  and  $-1$

- Order of  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  is

$$|m| = \begin{cases} +\infty & m \geq 0 \\ 1 & m = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Cyclic subgroups:  $\langle m \rangle = m\mathbb{Z} = \{km : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . (Note difference in  $\langle a \rangle$  in additive and multiplicative notation)

All subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are cyclic

### 2.3.1 $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

Can we analyze  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  in the same way? Recall  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of congruence classes mod  $n$ . We denote congruence class of  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  by  $[a]$ , or just  $a$ . For example, in  $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $3 = 8$ .

Then we might wonder:

- What are the generators?
- What are the orders of elements?
- What are the subgroups?

Before we explore these questions, it is nice to have the following lemma which works for arbitrary group  $G$ .

## Generators

### Lemma 2.8

Suppose  $G = \langle S \rangle$ . Then  $G = \langle T \rangle$  if and only if  $S \subseteq \langle T \rangle$ .

#### Proof:

It's relatively easy to prove.

$\Rightarrow$  If  $G = \langle T \rangle$ , and we know  $S \subseteq G$ , then  $S \subseteq \langle T \rangle$ .

$\Leftarrow$  If  $S \subseteq \langle T \rangle$ , and we know  $\langle S \rangle$  is the smallest subgroup containing  $S$ , then  $\langle T \rangle$  must contain the subgroup generated by  $S$ , which is  $\langle S \rangle = G$ , thus  $G \subseteq \langle T \rangle$ . And  $\langle T \rangle$  is a subgroup as well, then  $G = \langle T \rangle$ .  $\square$

What does this mean in our example? So  $\mathbb{Z}/n = \langle [a] \rangle$  if and only if  $[1] \in \langle [a] \rangle$ .

$$\begin{aligned} [1] \in \langle [a] \rangle &\iff xa = 1 \pmod n \text{ for some } x \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff xa - 1 = yn \text{ for some } x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff xa + yn = 1 \text{ for some } x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ &\iff \gcd(a, n) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

So  $\langle [a] \rangle = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  if and only if  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ .



## Order of elements

### Lemma 2.9

If  $G$  is a group,  $g \in G$ ,  $g^n = e$ , then  $|g| \mid n$ .

**Proof:**

Exercise. □

If  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $n[a] = 0$ , so  $|[a]| \mid n$ .

### Lemma 2.10

Suppose  $a \mid n$ . Then  $|[a]| = \frac{n}{a}$ .

**Proof:**

If  $n = ka$ , then  $\ell[a] \neq 0$  for  $1 \leq \ell < k$  and  $k[a] = [ka] = 0$ , so  $|[a]| = k$ . □

### Lemma 2.11

Suppose  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and let  $b = \gcd(a, n)$ . Then  $\langle [a] \rangle = \langle [b] \rangle$ .

**Proof:**

Since  $b \mid a$ , there is  $k$  such that  $a = kb$ , then  $[a] \in \langle [b] \rangle \implies \langle [a] \rangle \subseteq \langle [b] \rangle$ .

By properties of gcd, there is  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $xa + yn = b$ . So  $[b] = x[a] \implies [b] \in \langle [a] \rangle \implies \langle [b] \rangle \subseteq \langle [a] \rangle$ .

Therefore  $\langle [a] \rangle = \langle [b] \rangle$ . □

Using these lemmas, we can find order for a general element in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

### Proposition 2.12

Suppose  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$|[a]| = \frac{n}{\gcd(a, n)}$$

**Proof:**

Let  $b = \gcd(a, n)$ . Then  $\langle [a] \rangle = \langle [b] \rangle$ . So

$$|[a]| = |\langle [a] \rangle| = |\langle [b] \rangle| = |[b]|$$

Finally

$$|[b]| = \frac{n}{b}$$

□

## Subgroups

### Corollary 2.13

Let  $n \geq 1$ .

- The order  $d$  of any cyclic subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  divides  $n$ .
- For every  $d|n$ , there is a unique subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  of order  $d$ . It is generated by  $[a]$ , where  $a = \frac{n}{d}$ .

#### Proof:

If  $|\langle [a] \rangle| = d$ , then  $d = |[a]| \mid n$  by Lemma 2.9. Also,  $d = \frac{n}{\gcd(a, n)}$ , and by Lemma 2.11,  $\langle [a] \rangle = \langle [\frac{n}{d}] \rangle$ .

Conversely, if  $d|n$  and  $a = \frac{n}{d}$ , then  $|\langle [a] \rangle| = d$ . □

#### Example:

Cyclic subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$  are

- $\langle 6 \rangle = \{0\}$
- $\langle 2 \rangle = \{0, 2, 4\}$
- $\langle 3 \rangle = \{0, 3\}$
- $\langle 1 \rangle = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ .

Cyclic subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p$  prime

- $\langle p \rangle = \langle 0 \rangle$
- $\langle 1 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$

Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. So Corollary 2.13 is a complete list of subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . Every cyclic group is isomorphic to one of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , or  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

# Homomorphisms

## 3.1 Homomorphisms

### homomorphism

Let  $G$  and  $H$  be groups. A function  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a **homomorphism** (or **morphism**) if

$$\phi(g \cdot h) = \phi(g) \cdot \phi(h)$$

for all  $g, h \in G$ .

#### Example:

$\mathbb{K}$  field,  $\mathbb{K}^\times = \{a \in \mathbb{K}, a \neq 0\}$  with operation  $\cdot$ .

$\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^\times : A \mapsto \det(A)$  is a homomorphism because  $\det(AB) = \det(A) \det(B)$  for all invertible matrices  $A, B$ .

Let  $\mathbb{R}_{>0} = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x > 0\} \leq \mathbb{R}^\times$ .  $\mathbb{R}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0} : x \mapsto \sqrt{x}$  is a homomorphism since  $\sqrt{xy} = \sqrt{x}\sqrt{y}$ .

Additive notation:  $\phi : (G, +) \rightarrow (H, +)$  is a homomorphism if  $\phi(x + y) = \phi(x) + \phi(y)$  for all  $x, y \in G$ . For example,  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} : k \mapsto mk$  is a homomorphism for any  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , since

$$\phi(x + y) = m(x + y) = mx + my = \phi(x) + \phi(y) \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

If  $V, W$  are vector spaces, and  $T : V \rightarrow W$  is a linear transformation, then  $T$  is a homomorphism from  $(V, +)$  to  $(W, +)$ , since  $T(v + w) = T(v) + T(w)$  for all  $v, w \in V$ .

Mixed notation:  $\mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\times : x \mapsto e^x$  is a homomorphism since  $e^{x+y} = e^x \cdot e^y$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$ .

$\mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ : x \mapsto e^x$  is not a homomorphism since  $e^{x+y} \neq e^x + e^y$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$  (e.g.  $x = y = 0$ ).

**Lemma 3.1**

Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism. Then

- (a)  $\phi(e_G) = e_H$
- (b)  $\phi(g^{-1}) = \phi(g)^{-1}$
- (c)  $\phi(g^n) = \phi(g)^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$
- (d)  $|\phi(g)| \mid |g|$  for all  $g \in G$  ( $n \mid \infty$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ )

**Proof:**

- (a)  $\phi(e_G) = \phi(e_G^2) = \phi(e_G) \cdot \phi(e_G)$   
so  $e_H = \phi(e_G)^{-1} \cdot \phi(e_G) = \phi(e_G)^{-1} \cdot \phi(e_G) \cdot \phi(e_G) = \phi(e_G)$ .
- (b)  $e_H = \phi(e_G) = \phi(gg^{-1}) = \phi(g)\phi(g^{-1})$  and similarly  $\phi(g^{-1})\phi(g) = e_H$ , so  $\phi(g^{-1})$  is the unique inverse of  $\phi(g)$ .
- (c) Use induction for  $n \geq 0$ , use part (b) for  $n < 0$ .
- (d) If  $|g| = n < +\infty$ , then  $g^n = e_G$  so  $\phi(g)^n = \phi(g^n) = \phi(e_G) = e_H$ . This implies<sup>a</sup>  
 $|\phi(g)| \mid n$ .

□

---

<sup>a</sup>See homework

**Lemma 3.2**

If  $H \leq G$ , and  $H$  is considered as a group with the induced operation from  $G$ , then  $i : H \rightarrow G : x \mapsto x$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof:**

$$i(g \cdot h) = g \cdot h = i(g) \cdot i(h)$$

□

**Lemma 3.3**

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  and  $\psi : H \rightarrow K$  are homomorphisms, then  $\psi \circ \phi$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof:**

$$\psi \circ \phi(g \cdot h) = \psi(\phi(g) \cdot \phi(h)) = \psi(\phi(g)) \cdot \psi(\phi(h)).$$

□

**Corollary 3.4**

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism,  $K \leq G$ , then the **restriction**  $\phi|_K$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof:**

$$\phi_K = \phi \circ i, \text{ where } i : K \rightarrow G \text{ is the inclusion } x \mapsto x.$$

□

## 3.2 Homomorphisms and subgroups

If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a function,  $S \subseteq X$ , then  $f(S) := \{f(x) : x \in S\}$

### Proposition 3.5

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism, and  $K \leq G$ , then  $\phi(K) \leq H$ .

**Proof:**

Since  $K$  is non-empty,  $\phi(K)$  is non-empty.

If  $x, y \in \phi(K)$ , then  $x = \phi(x_0), y = \phi(y_0)$  for  $x_0, y_0 \in K$ .

So  $xy^{-1} = \phi(x_0)\phi(y_0)^{-1} = \phi(x_0)\phi(y_0^{-1}) = \phi(x_0y_0^{-1}) \in \phi(K)$ , since  $x_0y_0^{-1} \in K$ .  $\square$

### image

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism, the **image** of  $\phi$  is the subgroup  $\text{Im } \phi = \phi(G) \leq H$ .

**Example:**

Let  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\times : x \mapsto e^x$ .  $e^x > 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , so  $\text{Im } \phi \subseteq \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . If  $y \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , then  $y = \phi(\log y)$ , so  $\text{Im } \phi = \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .

If  $K \leq G$  and  $i : K \rightarrow G$  is inclusion, then  $\text{Im } i = K$ .

$\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} : k \mapsto mk$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .  $\phi(\mathbb{Z}) = m\mathbb{Z}$ .

### Lemma 3.6

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism with  $\text{Im } \phi \leq K \leq H$ , then the function  $\tilde{\phi} : G \rightarrow K : x \mapsto \phi(x)$  is also a homomorphism with  $\text{Im } \tilde{\phi} = \text{Im } \phi \leq K$ .

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}(x \cdot y) &= \phi(x \cdot y) \\ &= \phi(x) \cdot \phi(y) \text{ in } H \\ &= \tilde{\phi}(x) \cdot \tilde{\phi}(y) \text{ in } K \end{aligned}$$

Also  $\tilde{\phi}(G) = \phi(G)$ , regarded as a subset of  $K$ .  $\square$

Usually just refer to  $\tilde{\phi}$  as  $\phi$ .

### Lemma 3.7

A homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is surjective if and only if  $\text{Im } \phi = H$ .

**Proof:**

Obvious from definition.  $\square$

### Corollary 3.8

$\phi$  induces a surjective homomorphism  $\tilde{\phi} : G \rightarrow K$ , where  $K = \text{Im } \phi$ .

#### Remark:

From Lemma 3.7, if  $\phi$  is not surjective, then  $\text{Im } \phi < H$ , then we can let  $K = \text{Im } \phi$ , and then construct a surjective homomorphism by Lemma 3.6.

Because this is a bit abstract, it is helpful to go through some examples.

Recall the previous example: Let  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\times : x \mapsto e^x$ .  $e^x > 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . This is not surjective, because  $\text{Im } \phi = \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ . If we restrict the codomain to be  $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , then it is surjective.

Similarly for  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} : k \mapsto mk$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , but it induced surjective homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow m\mathbb{Z}$ .

### Proposition 3.9

Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism. If  $S \subseteq G$ , then  $\phi(\langle S \rangle) = \langle \phi(S) \rangle$ .

#### Proof:

$\phi(S^{-1}) = \{\phi(s^{-1}) : s \in S\} = \{\phi(s)^{-1} : s \in S\} = \phi(S)^{-1}$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\langle S \rangle) &= \phi(\{s_1 \cdots s_k : k \geq 0, s_1, \dots, s_k \in S \cup S^{-1}\}) \\ &= \{\phi(s_1) \cdots \phi(s_k) : k \geq 0, s_1, \dots, s_k \in S \cup S^{-1}\} \\ &= \{t_1 \cdots t_k : k \geq 0, t_1, \dots, t_k \in \phi(S) \cup \phi(S)^{-1}\} \\ &= \langle \phi(S) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

□

#### Remark:

We used the fact that  $\phi(S \cup S^{-1}) = \phi(S) \cup \phi(S^{-1})$ , but it doesn't work for intersection.

If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a function, and  $S \subseteq Y$ , then  $f^{-1}(S) := \{x \in X : f(x) \in S\}$ .

### Proposition 3.10

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism,  $K \leq H$ , then  $\phi^{-1}(K) \leq G$ .

#### Proof:

$\phi(e_G) = e_H \in K$ , so  $e_G \in \phi^{-1}(K)$ .

If  $x, y \in \phi^{-1}(K)$ , then  $\phi(x), \phi(y) \in K$ . Thus  $\phi(xy^{-1}) = \phi(x)\phi(y)^{-1} \in K$ . Hence  $xy^{-1} \in \phi^{-1}(K)$ . Thus it is a subgroup of  $G$ . □

**kernel**

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism, then the **kernel** of  $\phi$  is the subgroup  $\ker \phi := \phi^{-1}(e_H) = \{g \in G : \phi(g) = e_H\} \leq G$ .

**Example:**

For  $\det : \mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^\times$ ,  $\ker \det = \{A \in \mathrm{GL}_n : \det(A) = 1\}$ .

This subgroup of  $\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  is called the **special linear group**, and is denoted by  $\mathrm{SL}_n \mathbb{K}$ .

If  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} : k \mapsto mk$ , then  $\phi(k) = 0$  if and only if  $mk = 0$ , so

$$\ker \phi = \begin{cases} \{0\} & m \neq 0 \\ \mathbb{Z} & m = 0 \end{cases}$$

If  $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\times : x \mapsto e^x$ , then  $e^x = 1$  if and only if  $x = 0$ , so  $\ker \phi = \{0\}$ .

We can generalize the last example into the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.11**

A homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is injective if and only if  $\ker \phi = \{e_G\}$ .

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\phi$  is injective, then  $\phi(x) = \phi(e_H) = \phi(e_G)$  if and only if  $x = e_G$ , so  $\ker \phi = \{e_G\}$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Suppose  $\ker \phi = \{e_G\}$ , and  $\phi(x) = \phi(y)$ . Then  $\phi(xy^{-1}) = \phi(x)\phi(y)^{-1} = e_H$ , so  $xy^{-1} \in \ker \phi$ .

But then  $xy^{-1} = e_G$ , so  $x = y$  which implies that  $\phi$  is injective.  $\square$

**3.2.1 Application: subgroups of cyclic groups****Proposition 3.12**

If  $H$  is a subgroup of a cyclic group  $G$ , then  $H$  is cyclic.

**Proof:**

We need following facts:

1. All subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are of the form  $m\mathbb{Z} = \langle m \rangle$ , hence cyclic.
2.  $G$  is cyclic if and only if there is surjective homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$ .
3. If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a surjective function, and  $S \subseteq Y$ , then  $f(f^{-1}(S)) = S$ .

The first two are in the homework. The last one is not hard to see.

Since  $G$  is cyclic, there is a surjective homomorphism  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$ .

Since all subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are cyclic, there is  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\phi^{-1}(H) = \langle m \rangle$ .

Let  $\psi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  be homomorphism with  $\psi(k) = mk$ .

Then  $\phi \circ \psi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$  is homomorphism.

$$\phi \circ \psi(\mathbb{Z}) = \phi(m\mathbb{Z}) = \phi(\phi^{-1}(H)) = H.$$

Then we can restrict codomain of  $\phi \circ \psi$  to get surjective homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$ .

Hence  $H$  is cyclic. □

### 3.3 Isomorphisms

#### in/sur/bi-jective

Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a function. Then  $f$  is:

1. **injective** if for all  $x, y \in X$ ,  $f(x) = f(y) \implies x = y$ ,
2. **surjective** if for all  $y \in Y$ ,  $\exists x \in X$  with  $f(x) = y$ , and
3. **bijective** if  $f$  is both injective and surjective.

#### Proposition 3.13

$f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a bijection if and only if there is a function  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $f \circ g = 1_Y$  and  $g \circ f = 1_X$ .

If  $g$  exists, then it is unique, and we denote it by  $f^{-1}$ .

#### isomorphism

A homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an **isomorphism** if  $\phi$  is a bijection.

#### Lemma 3.14

$\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $\ker \phi = \{e_G\}$  and  $\text{Im } \phi = H$ .

#### Example:

$\mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0} : x \mapsto e^x$  is an isomorphism.

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is injective, then  $\phi$  induces an isomorphism  $G \rightarrow \text{Im } \phi$ .

#### Proposition 3.15

Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism. Then  $\phi^{-1} : H \rightarrow G$  is also an isomorphism.



**Proof:**

$\phi^{-1}$  is also a bijection, so just need to show that it is a homomorphism.

If  $g, h \in H$ , then

$$\phi(\phi^{-1}(g) \cdot \phi^{-1}(h)) = \phi(\phi^{-1}(g))\phi(\phi^{-1}(h)) = g \cdot h$$

So  $\phi^{-1}$  is a homomorphism, hence isomorphism.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.16**

A homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if and only if there is a homomorphism  $\psi : H \rightarrow G$  such that

- $\psi \circ \phi = 1_G$ , and
- $\phi \circ \psi = 1_H$ .

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\phi$  is an isomorphism, then can take  $\psi = \phi^{-1}$ .

$\Leftarrow$  If  $\psi$  exists, then  $\phi$  is a bijection.  $\square$

**isomorphic**

We say that  $G$  and  $H$  are **isomorphic** if there is an isomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ .

Notation:  $G \cong H$ .

Key facts:

- If  $G \cong H$  then  $H \cong G$ .

**Proof:**

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism, then  $\phi^{-1} : H \rightarrow G$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

- If  $G \cong H$  and  $H \cong K$  then  $G \cong K$ .

**Proof:**

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism and  $\psi : H \rightarrow K$  is an isomorphism, then  $\psi \circ \phi$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

- $G \cong G$ .

**Proof:**

$1_G : G \rightarrow G$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

**Idea** If  $G \cong H$ , then  $G$  and  $H$  are identical as groups.

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism, then

- $|G| = |H|$

- $G$  is abelian if and only if  $H$  is abelian
- $|g| = |\phi(g)|$  for all  $g \in G$
- $K \subseteq G$  is a subgroup of  $G$  if and only if  $\phi(K)$  is a subgroup of  $H$

### Proposition 3.17

If  $G$  and  $H$  are cyclic groups, then  $G \cong H$  if and only if  $|G| = |H|$ .

**Proof:**

Suppose  $|G| = \langle a \rangle$ ,  $H = \langle b \rangle$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Assume that  $|G| = |H|$ .

**Claim**  $a^i = a^j$  for  $i < j$  if and only if  $|a| \mid j - i$ .

**Proof**

$\Leftarrow$  If  $a^i = a^j$  then  $a^{j-i} = e$ .

$\Rightarrow$  If  $|a| \mid j - i$ , then  $j - i = k|a|$ . So  $a^{j-i} = a^{k|a|} = e \implies a^j = a^i$ . ■

Note: if  $|a| = +\infty$ ,  $a^i \neq a^j$  for all  $i \neq j \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Then we define a function  $\phi : G \rightarrow H : a^i \mapsto b^i$ .

Well-defined?  $|a| = |G| = |H| = |b|$ .

$a^i = a^h \implies |a| \mid j - i \implies |b| \mid j - i \implies b^i = b^j$

Homomorphism?  $\phi(a^i \cdot a^j) = \phi(a^{i+j}) = b^{i+j} = b^i \cdot b^j = \phi(a^i) \cdot \phi(a^j)$  for all  $a^i, a^j \in G$ .

Inverse?  $\psi : H \rightarrow G : b^i \mapsto a^i$  is well-defined. Clearly  $\psi$  is inverse to  $\phi$ .

Thus  $\phi$  is isomorphism  $\implies G \cong H$ .

$\Rightarrow$  If  $G \cong H$ , then  $|G| = |H|$  which holds for all groups. Same cardinality thus same order.

□

### Corollary 3.18

Suppose  $G$  is a cyclic group.

- If  $|G| = +\infty$ , then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}$ .
- If  $|G| = n < +\infty$ , then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Corollary 3.19**

Cyclic groups are abelian.

**multiplicative form of cyclic groups**

Let  $a$  be formal indeterminate (can use any letter). Let

- $C_\infty = \{a^i : i \in \mathbb{Z}\}, a^i \cdot a^j = a^{i+j}$
- $C_n = \{a^i : i \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}\}, a^i \cdot a^j = a^{i+j}$

Of course we have  $C_\infty \cong \mathbb{Z}$  via  $a^i \mapsto i$ , and  $C_n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  via  $a^i \mapsto i$ .

### 3.4 Cosets

week 3

Recall linear subspaces are motivation for definition of subgroups. Let  $T : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear transformation. (so  $T$  is also a group homomorphism  $(V, +) \rightarrow (W, +)$ ).  $\ker T = \{x \in V : T(x) = 0\}$  = “solutions to  $Tx = 0$ ”.

What are solutions to  $Tx = b$ ?

They can be empty:  $Tx = b$  has a solution if and only if  $b \in \operatorname{Im} T$ . If  $b \in \operatorname{Im} T$ , and  $Tx = b$  has a solution  $x_0$ , then all other solutions are of the form  $x_0 + x_1$ , for  $x_1 \in \ker T$ .

Conclusion: space of solutions has form  $x_i + \ker T$ .  $x_0 + \ker T$  is called an **affine** subspace. (it’s like a linear subspace, but doesn’t have to contain 0). We can still talk about the dimension.

**coset**

If  $S \subseteq G$ , and  $g \in G$ , we let

$$gS = \{gh : h \in S\} \quad \text{and} \quad Sg = \{hg : h \in S\}$$

If  $H \leq G$ ,  $gH$  is called a **left coset** of  $H$  in  $G$  and  $Hg$  is called a **right coset** of  $H$  in  $G$ .

**Remark:**

We also refer these sets: left/right translate of  $S$  by  $g$ .

For abelian groups,  $gH = Hg$ .

Additive notation: coset of  $H$  in  $(G, +)$  is  $g + H$ .

**Example:**

$U$  subspace of vector space  $(V, +, \cdot)$ , cosets of  $U$  are affine subspaces  $v + U$  for  $v \in V$ .

Given  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , cosets of  $m\mathbb{Z}$  are sets

$$a + m\mathbb{Z} = \{a + km : k \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \equiv a \pmod{m}\}$$

We can think of the cosets as the sets of solutions to system of equations.

**Example: Dihedral group  $\langle s \rangle$**

Recall  $D_{2n} = \{s^i r^j : 0 \leq i < n, j \in \{0, 1\}\}$ .

Let  $H = \langle s \rangle = \{e = s^0, s^1, \dots, s^{n-1}\}$

*What are the right cosets of  $H$ ?*

$$\begin{aligned} H &= He \\ Hr &= \{r, sr, \dots, s^{n-1}r\} \\ Hs^i &= \{s^i, s^{i+1}, \dots, s^{n-1}, e, s^1, \dots, s^{i-1}\} = H \\ Hs^i r &= \{s^i r, s^{i+1}r, \dots, s^{n-1}r, r, sr, \dots, s^{i-1}r\} = Hr \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion: right cosets are  $H$  and  $Hr$ .

Also  $D_{2n} = H \sqcup Hr$ , where  $\sqcup$  is disjoint union.

*What about the left cosets of  $H = \langle s \rangle$ ?*

**Exercise**

- use  $rs = s^{-1}r$  to show  $s^i = rs^{-i}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- if  $S \subseteq G$ ,  $g, h \in G$ , then  $ghS = g(hS)$ . This follows from the associativity of the group.

With these facts,

$$\begin{aligned} s^i H &= H \\ s^i r H &= r s^{-i} H = r H \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion: left cosets of  $H$  are  $H, rH$

$$\begin{aligned} rH &= \{r, rs, rs^2, \dots, rs^{n-1}\} \\ &= \{r, s^{-1}r, s^{-2}r, \dots, s^{1-n}r\} \\ &= \{r, s^{-1}r, s^{-2}r, \dots, sr\} \\ &= \{r, s^{n-1}r, s^{n-2}r, \dots, sr\} \\ &= Hr \end{aligned}$$

**Example: Dihedral group  $\langle r \rangle$**

*What about  $H = \langle r \rangle = \{e, r\}$ ?*

Left cosets:  $rH = \{r, e\} = H$  and  $s^i H = \{s^i, s^i r\} = s^i r H$ .

Conclusion: Left cosets are  $s^i H, 0 \leq i < n$ , and

$$D_{2n} = \bigsqcup_{i=0}^{n-1} s^i H$$

Right cosets:  $Hr = \{r, e\} = H$  and  $Hs^i = \{s^i, rs^i\} = \{s^i, s^{-i}r\}$   
 $Hs^i r = \{s^i r, s^{-i}\} = Hs^{-i}$

Conclusion: Right cosets are  $Hs^i, 0 \leq i < n$ , and  $D_{2n} = \bigsqcup_{i=0}^{n-1} Hs^i$ .

In this case, left cosets and right cosets are different.

### set of left/right cosets

If  $H \leq G$ , let

$$G/H = \{gH : g \in G\} = \{S \subseteq G : S = gH \text{ for some } g \in G\}$$

be the **set of left cosets** of  $H$  in  $G$ , and

$$H \backslash G = \{Hg : g \in G\} = \{S \subseteq G : S = Hg \text{ for some } g \in G\}$$

be the **set of right cosets** of  $H$  in  $G$ .

### Remark:

It is read as  $G \bmod H$ . We count each subset once.

We are very interested in trying to understand  $G/H$  and  $H \backslash G$ .

### Example: $D_{2n}$

$$D_{2n}/\langle s \rangle = \{\langle s \rangle, r\langle s \rangle\}$$

$$D_{2n}/\langle r \rangle = \{s^i \langle r \rangle, 0 \leq i < n\}$$

### Example: $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$

Consider  $n\mathbb{Z} \leq \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$a + n\mathbb{Z} = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \equiv a \pmod{n}\} =: [a]. \text{ Thus}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} &= \{a + n\mathbb{Z} : a \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{a + n\mathbb{Z} : 0 \leq a < n\} \\ &= \{[a] : 0 \leq a < n\} \end{aligned}$$

Big question for next week: for  $H \leq G$ , is  $G/H$  always a group? spoiler: no...

Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism, let  $H = \ker \phi$ . Note that  $\phi(x) = b$  has a solution  $x$  for  $b \in K$  if and only if  $b \in \text{Im } \phi$ .

### Lemma 3.20

Suppose  $\phi(x_0) = b$ . The set of solutions  $\phi^{-1}(\{b\})$  to  $\phi(x) = b$  is  $x_0H = Hx_0$ .

### Proof:

Suppose  $\phi(x_1) = b$ . Then  $\phi(x_0^{-1}x_1) = \phi(x_0)^{-1}\phi(x_1) = b^{-1}b = e$ . Thus  $x_0^{-1}x_1 \in H$ . Therefore  $x_1 = x_0(x_0^{-1}x_1) \in Hx_0$ .

Conversely, if  $x_1 = x_0h$  for  $h \in H$ , then  $\phi(x_1) = \phi(x_0h) = \phi(x_0)\phi(h) = be = b$ . Therefore, every element of  $x_0H$  is a solution.

Same argument for right cosets shows set of solutions is  $Hx_0$ .  $\square$

In this case, left cosets are right cosets.

#### Lemma 3.21

Suppose  $\phi(x_0) = b$ . Then set of solutions to  $\phi(x) = b$  is  $x_0 \cdot \ker \phi$ .

#### Proposition 3.22

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism, then there is a bijection between  $G/\ker \phi$  and  $\text{Im } \phi$ .

#### Proof:

$g \cdot \ker \phi \in G/\ker \phi$  is the set of solutions to  $\phi(x) = b$  where  $b = \phi(g)$ . As a result,  $\phi(g \cdot \ker \phi) = \{b\}$ ,  $b \in \text{Im } \phi$ .

In the other direction, given  $b \in \text{Im } \phi$ ,  $g \ker \phi = \phi^{-1}(\{b\})$ .

From Lemma 3.21, we see these two mappings are inverses of each other, thus bijection.  $\square$

#### Example:

Suppose  $G = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $K = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

From tutorial: there is a homomorphism  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} : a \mapsto [a]$ .

$\ker \phi = n\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\text{Im } \phi = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

Elements of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{[a] : 0 \leq a < n\} = \{a + n\mathbb{Z} : 0 \leq a < n\}$

$a + n\mathbb{Z}$  is the set of solutions of  $[x] \equiv [a]$  in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

## 3.5 The index and Lagrange's theorem

Given  $H \leq G$ , how many left cosets does  $H$  have in  $G$ ?

#### index

The **index** of  $H$  in  $G$  is

$$[G : H] := \begin{cases} |G/H| & G/H \text{ is finite} \\ +\infty & G/H \text{ is infinite} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 3.23: Lagrange's theorem**

If  $H \leq G$ , then

$$|G| = [G : H] \cdot |H|$$

**Remark:**

Why are we use left cosets here for index? Why not right cosets? Anything holds for left cosets should also be expected hold for right cosets with the order of product reversed. Lagrange's theorem didn't mention the order of product. Thus we should expect it holds for right cosets as well. Thus when  $G$  is finite, Lagrange's theorem should imply the number of left cosets is equal to the number of right cosets.

**Proposition 3.24**

The function  $\phi : G/H \rightarrow H \setminus G : S \mapsto S^{-1}$  is a bijection.

**Proof:**

First we check  $\phi$  is well defined: if we are given left coset  $S$ , then  $S^{-1}$  is a right coset.

Suppose  $S \in G/H$ , so  $S = gH$  for some  $g \in G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1} &= \{(gh)^{-1} : h \in H\} \\ &= \{h^{-1}g^{-1} : h \in H\} \\ &\stackrel{*}{=} \{hg^{-1} : h \in H\} \\ &= Hg^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

\*: because  $H \rightarrow H : h \mapsto h^{-1}$  is a bijection.

So  $\phi$  is well-defined, and same argument shows  $\psi : H \setminus G \rightarrow G/H : S \mapsto S^{-1}$  is well-defined.

Finally,  $\psi$  is an inverse to  $\phi$ . □

Thus can use either left or right cosets to define index:

**Corollary 3.25**

If  $H \leq G$  then

$$[G : H] = \begin{cases} |H \setminus G| & H \setminus G \text{ is finite} \\ +\infty & H \setminus G \text{ is infinite} \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 3.26: Lagrange's theorem (detailed)**

If  $H \leq G$ , then  $|G| = [G : H] \cdot |H|$ . (In particular,  $|H|$  divides  $|G|$ .) Furthermore, if  $G$  is finite, then  $[G : H] = \frac{|G|}{|H|}$ .

**Remark:**

We don't want to use the second formula if  $|G|$  and  $|H|$  both are infinite. See proof in the next section.

**Example:**

$G = D_{2n}$ ,  $H = \langle s \rangle$ ,  $|D_{2n}| = 2n$ ,  $|H| = n$ , so  $[G : H] = 2$ .

$G = D_{2n}$ ,  $H = \langle r \rangle$ ,  $|D_{2n}| = 2n$ ,  $|H| = 2$ , so  $[G : H] = n$ .

$G = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $H = m\mathbb{Z}$ .  $|G| = |H| = +\infty$ ,  $[G : H] = |\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}| = m$ . So  $|G| = [G : H] \cdot |H|$ , but we don't get any info about  $[G : H]$  from Lagrange's theorem. However, it still gives us some info in many cases.

**Corollary 3.27**

If  $x \in G$ , then  $|x|$  divides  $|G|$ .

**Proof:**

$|x| = |\langle x \rangle|$  and  $|\langle x \rangle|$  divides  $|G|$ . □

**Proposition 3.28**

If  $|G|$  is prime, then  $G$  is cyclic.

**Proof:**

Here we don't treat  $+\infty$  as a prime number, and 1 is not a prime number.

Let  $x \in G$ ,  $x \neq e$ . Then  $|x| \neq 1$ , and  $|x| \mid |G|$ , so  $|x| = |G|$ . Since  $|\langle x \rangle| = |x| = |G|$ ,  $G = \langle x \rangle$ . □

Order	Known groups
1	Trivial group
2	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
3	$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$
4	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ , ??
5	$\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$
6	$\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ , $D_6 = S_3$ , ??
7	$\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$
8	$\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$ , $D_8$ , ??
9	$\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}$ , ??

Table 3.1: Groups of small order

?? = could be more groups.

**Corollary 3.29**

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism, then  $|\text{Im } \phi| = [G : \ker \phi]$ , and hence divides  $|G|$ .



**Proof:**

There is a bijection  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \text{Im } \phi$ , so  $|\text{Im } \phi| = [G : \ker \phi]$ . Then Lagrange's theorem implies  $[G : H]$  divides  $|G|$  for any  $H \leq G$ .  $\square$

**Note**

Lagrange's theorem also implies that  $|\text{Im } \phi|$  divides  $|K|$ .

**Exercise**

If  $G, K$  are groups, then  $\phi : G \rightarrow K : g \mapsto e_K$  is a homomorphism (called the **trivial homomorphism**).

$\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is the trivial homomorphism if and only if  $\text{Im } \phi = \{e\}$ , the trivial subgroup.

**Corollary 3.30**

If  $G$  and  $K$  have coprime order, then the only homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is the trivial homomorphism.

## 3.6 Proof of Lagrange's theorem

How to prove this theorem?

Recall

$$\begin{aligned} D_{2n} &= \{s^i r^j : 0 \leq i < n, j \in \{0, 1\}\} \\ &= \langle s \rangle \sqcup r \langle s \rangle \quad (|s| = n) \\ &= \bigsqcup_{i=0}^{n-1} s^i \langle r \rangle \quad (|r| = 2) \end{aligned}$$

In example, cosets of  $H$  are disjoint, we can divide  $G$  into  $[G : H]$  sets of size  $|H|$ . Does this work in general? Need to better understand cosets.

**Proposition 3.31**

Let  $H \leq G$ , and suppose  $g, k \in G$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (a)  $g^{-1}k \in H$
- (b)  $k \in gH$
- (c)  $gH = kH$
- (d)  $gH \cap kH \neq \emptyset$

**Example:**

$hH = H$  if and only if  $h \in H$ . (This is from (c) and (a))

**Proof:**

(a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b) If  $g^{-1}k = h \in H$ , then  $k = gh \in gH$ .

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c) Suppose  $k = gh$  for  $h \in H$ . If  $h' \in H$ , then  $kh' = g(hh') \in gH$ , since

$hh' \in H$ . So  $kU \subseteq gH$ .

For the reverse inclusion, notice that  $g = kh^{-1} \in kH$ . If  $h' \in H$ , then  $gh' = k(h^{-1}h') \in kH$ , so  $gH \subseteq kH$ .

(c)  $\Rightarrow$  (d) Since  $e \in H$ , then  $g \in gH$ , so  $gH \neq \emptyset$ . If  $gH = kH$ , then  $gH \cap kH = gH \neq \emptyset$ .

(d)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) Suppose  $x \in gH \cap kH$ . Then  $x = gh_1 = kh_2$  for  $h_1, h_2 \in H$ . Multiply on the left by  $g^{-1}$ , right by  $h_2^{-1}$ . So  $g^{-1}k = h_1h_2^{-1} \in H$ .

□

### partition

Let  $X$  be a set. A **partition** of  $X$  is a subset  $\mathcal{Q}$  of  $2^X$  such that

- (a)  $\bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{Q}} S = X$ , and
- (b)  $S \cap T = \emptyset$  for all  $S \neq T \in \mathcal{Q}$ .

Here  $2^X$  denotes set of subsets of  $X$ .

### Exercise

If  $\mathcal{Q} \subseteq 2^X$ , then the following are equivalent:

- $\mathcal{Q}$  is a partition
- $X = \bigsqcup_{S \in \mathcal{Q}} S$
- Every element of  $X$  is contained in exactly one element of  $\mathcal{Q}$ .

### Corollary 3.32

If  $H \leq G$ , then  $G/H$  is a partition of  $G$ .

### Proof:

Let  $g \in G$ , then  $g \in gH$ , so every element of  $G$  belongs to some element of  $G/H$ . Consequently,  $\bigcup_{S \in G/H} S = G$ .

Suppose  $S \neq T \in G/H$  (so  $S = gH$ ,  $T = kH$  for some  $g, k \in G$ ). If  $S \cap T \neq \emptyset$ , then  $S = T$  by parts (c) and (d) of Proposition 3.31. So  $S \cap T = \emptyset$ . □

### Lemma 3.33

If  $S \subseteq G$ ,  $g \in G$ , then  $S \rightarrow gS : h \mapsto gh$  is a bijection.

### Proof:

Inverse is  $gS \rightarrow S : h \mapsto g^{-1}h$ . □

Consequence: If  $H$  is finite, and  $g \in G$ , then  $|gH| = |H|$ .

Now we can prove the Lagrange's theorem.

**Proof:**

If  $|H| = +\infty$  then  $|G| = +\infty$ . Since cosets are disjoint, if  $[G : H] = +\infty$  then  $|G| = +\infty$ .

Suppose  $|H|, [G : H]$  are finite.

By Lemma 3.33,  $|gH| = |H|$  for all  $g \in G$ .

Since  $G/H$  is a partition of  $G$ ,  $G$  is a disjoint union of  $[G : H]$  subsets, all of size  $|H|$ .

Conclude that  $|G| = [G : H] \cdot |H|$ .  $\square$

### 3.6.1 Equivalence relations

#### relation $\sim$

Let  $X$  be a set. A **relation**  $\sim$  on  $X$  is a subset of  $X \times X$ .

Notation:  $a \sim b$  if  $(a, b) \in \sim$ .

**Example:**

$=$  on  $X$ .  $\leq, <, >, \geq$  on  $\mathbb{N}$  (or any ordered set).  $\subseteq$  on  $2^X$ .

#### equivalence relation

A relation  $\sim$  on  $X$  is an **equivalence relation** if

- $x \sim x$  for all  $x \in X$  (reflexivity)
- $x \sim y \implies y \sim x$  for all  $x, y \in X$  (symmetry), and
- $x \sim y$  and  $y \sim z$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$  (transitivity).

**Example:**

$=$  on  $X$ .  $\equiv_m$ , congruence mod  $m$ , is an equivalence relation on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

$\leq, <$  on  $\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{R}$ , etc. are not equivalence relations.

Isomorphism  $\cong$  is an equivalence relation on the *proper class* of groups. Note that there is no set of all sets, or set of all groups.

#### equivalence class

If  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ , the **equivalence class** of  $x \in X$  is  $[x] = [x]_\sim := \{y \in X : x \sim y\}$ .

**Proposition 3.34**

Let  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on  $X$ . If  $x, y \in X$  then the following are equivalent:

- (a)  $x \sim y$
- (b)  $y \in [x]$
- (c)  $[x] = [y]$
- (d)  $[x] \cap [y] \neq \emptyset$

**Proof:**

- (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b) Follows immediately from definition of equivalent classes.
- (b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c) Assume  $y \in [x]$ . If  $z \in [y]$ , then  $x \sim y \sim z$ , and by transitivity,  $z \in [x]$ . Thus  $[y] \subseteq [x]$ . Also  $x \sim y \Rightarrow y \sim x$ , which implies  $[x] \subseteq [y]$ .
- (c)  $\Rightarrow$  (d) Assume  $[x] = [y]$ ,  $[x] \cap [y] = [x] \supset \{x\} \neq \emptyset$ .
- (d)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) If  $x \in [x] \cap [y]$ , then  $x \sim z \sim y \Rightarrow x \sim y$ . □

**Corollary 3.35**

If  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ , then  $\{[x]_\sim : x \in X\}$  is a partition of  $X$ .

**Proof:**

Since  $x \sim x$ ,  $x \in [x]$ . Therefore, every element  $x$  belongs to some equivalent class. If two equivalent class intersect, they must be equal. Thus  $X$  is a disjoint union of its equivalent classes. □

Thus equivalence relation  $\Rightarrow$  partition. It turns out we can go the opposite direction:

**Lemma 3.36**

If  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a partition of  $X$ , then there is an equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $X$  such that  $\{[x]_\sim : x \in X\} = \mathcal{Q}$ .

**Proof:**

Every element  $x \in X$  is contained in a unique set  $S_x \in \mathcal{Q}$ . Define  $\sim$  by saying  $x \sim y$  if and only if  $S_x = S_y$ . This defines an equivalence relation. □

**Proposition 3.37**

If  $H \leq G$ , define a relation  $\sim_H$  on  $G$  by  $g \sim_H k$  if  $g^{-1}k \in H$ . Then  $\sim_H$  is an equivalence relation, and the equivalence class of  $g \in G$  is  $[g] = gH$ .

**Remark:**

From the proposition, we would say  $h \sim e$  if and only if  $h \in H$ .

Proposition 3.37 follows from that cosets partition  $G$ . Proposition 3.31 is a special

case of Proposition 3.34. Thus we can prove that  $\sim_H$  is equivalence class directly, and use Proposition 3.37 to prove Proposition 3.31.

## 3.7 Normal subgroups

Recall Proposition 3.31, by symmetry:

### Proposition 3.38

Let  $H \leq G$ , and suppose  $g, k \in G$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (a)  $kg^{-1} \in H$
- (b)  $k \in Hg$
- (c)  $Hg = Hk$
- (d)  $Hg \cap Hk \neq \emptyset$

Caution:  $g^{-1}k \in H$  does not necessarily imply  $kg^{-1} \in H$ .

### Lemma 3.39

If  $H \leq G$  and  $Hg = hH$  for  $g, h \in G$ , then  $gH = Hg$ .

**Proof:**

$g \in Hg = hH$ , so  $gH = hH$ . □

### normal subgroup

A subgroup  $N \leq G$  is a **normal subgroup** if  $gN = Ng$  for all  $g \in G$ .

Notation:  $N \trianglelefteq G$ .

### conjugate of $h$ by $g$

If  $g, h \in G$ , the **conjugate of  $h$  by  $g$**  is  $ghg^{-1}$ .

Conjugates come up in linear algebra in change of basis and diagonalization.

Recall:  $gS = \{gh : h \in S\}$ ,  $Sg = \{hg : h \in S\}$ . So  $gSg^{-1} = \{ghg^{-1} : h \in S\}$ .

As previously mentioned,  $g(hS) = (gh)S$ ,  $(Sg)h = S(gh)$ ,  $g(Sh) = (gS)h$ ,  $eS = S = Se$ .

So  $gN = Ng$  if and only if  $gNg^{-1} = N$ . Here we

Also:  $S \subseteq T$  if and only if  $gS \subseteq gT$  if and only if  $Sg \subseteq Tg$ .

**Proposition 3.40**

Let  $N \leq G$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (1)  $N \trianglelefteq G$  ( $gN = Ng \forall g \in G$ )
- (2)  $gNg^{-1} = N$  for all  $g \in G$
- (3)  $gNg^{-1} \subseteq N$  for all  $g \in G$
- (4)  $G/N = N \setminus G$
- (5)  $G/N \subseteq N \setminus G$
- (6)  $N \setminus G \subseteq G/N$

**Proof:**

We've already done  $(1) \iff (2)$ . Clearly  $(2) \implies (3)$ .

To see  $(3) \implies (2)$ , suppose  $gNg^{-1} \subseteq N$  for all  $g \in G$ . Given  $g \in G$ , we know  $g^{-1}Ng \subseteq N$  by apply assumption to  $g^{-1}$ . Thus  $N \subseteq gNg^{-1}$ . Hence  $N = gNg^{-1}$ , so  $(2)$  holds.

By definition,  $(1) \implies (4) \implies (5), (6)$ .

$(5) \implies (1)$ : Suppose  $G/N \subseteq N \setminus G$ . If  $g \in G$ , then  $gN = Nh$  for some  $h \in G$ . By Lemma 3.39,  $gN = Ng$ .

$(6) \implies (1)$ : Similar. □

**Example:**

$\langle s \rangle \leq D_{2n}$ : Already seen  $G/\langle s \rangle = \langle s \rangle \setminus G$ . So  $\langle s \rangle \trianglelefteq D_{2n}$ . Can also check  $s^i \langle s \rangle s^{-i} = \langle s \rangle$ ,  $r \langle s \rangle r^{-1} = \langle s \rangle$  (since  $rs^i r^{-1} = s^{-i}$ ).

$\langle r \rangle \leq D_{2n}$ :  $G/\langle r \rangle \neq \langle r \rangle \setminus G$ , so  $\langle r \rangle$  is not normal. Indeed,  $sr s^{-1} = s^2 r \notin \langle r \rangle$  for  $n \geq 3$ .

If  $G$  is abelian, then all subgroups are normal.

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism, then  $\ker \phi$  is normal. Previously, we have proved  $G/\ker \phi \equiv$  solution sets to equations  $\phi(x) = b, b \in \text{Im } \phi = \ker \phi \setminus G$ . Alternatively, we can use statement (2): if  $x \in \ker \phi, g \in G$ , then  $\phi(gxg^{-1}) = \phi(g)\phi(x)\phi(g)^{-1} = \phi(g)\phi(g)^{-1} = e$ , so  $gxg^{-1} \in \ker \phi \implies g(\ker \phi)g^{-1} \subseteq \ker \phi$ .

The subgroup relation  $\leq$  is transitive: If  $H \leq G$  ( $G$  considered as group) and  $K \leq H$  ( $H$  considered as group) then  $K \leq G$ . Normally we just say  $K \leq H \leq G \implies K \leq G$ .

The normal subgroup relation  $\trianglelefteq$  is **not** transitive: Consider  $H = \langle r, s^2 \rangle \leq D_8$ .  $rs^2 = s^{4-2}r = s^2r \implies rs^2r^{-1} = s^2$ . We know  $H \trianglelefteq D_8$ , and  $H$  is abelian. Since  $H$  is abelian, then  $\langle r \rangle \trianglelefteq H$ . However,  $\langle r \rangle \not\trianglelefteq D_8$ .

### 3.8 Normalizers and the center

#### normalizer of $S$ in $G$

Let  $S \subseteq G$ . Then  $N_G(S) := \{g \in G : gSg^{-1} = S\}$  is called the **normalizer of  $S$  in  $G$** .

#### Lemma 3.41

$N_G(S) \leq G$ .

**Proof:**

$eSe = S$ , so  $e \in N_G(S)$ .

If  $g, h \in N_G(S)$ , then  $ghS(gh)^{-1} = g(hSh^{-1})g^{-1} = gSg^{-1} = S$ , so  $gh \in N_G(S)$ .

If  $g \in N_G(S)$ , then  $g^{-1}Sg = g^{-1}(gSg^{-1})g = eSe = S$ . So  $g^{-1} \in N_G(S)$ .  $\square$

#### Lemma 3.42

Suppose  $H \leq G$ . Then  $H \trianglelefteq G$  if and only if  $N_G(H) = G$ .

#### Corollary 3.43

If  $G = \langle S \rangle$ , and  $H \leq G$ , then  $H \trianglelefteq G$  if and only if  $gHg^{-1} = H$  for all  $g \in S$ .

**Proof:**

$H \trianglelefteq G$  if and only if  $N_G(H) = G$  if and only if  $S \subseteq N_G(H)$ .  $\square$

**Remark:**

It will be helpful to check a subgroup is normal. Warning: it is possible to have  $gHg^{-1} \subseteq H$  and  $g \notin N_G(H)$ .

#### Lemma 3.44

If  $|g| < +\infty$ , and  $gHg^{-1} \subseteq H$ , then  $g \in N_G(H)$ .

**Proof:**

Prove by induction. If  $gHg^{-1} \subseteq H$ , then  $g^iHg^{-i} \subseteq H$  for all  $i \geq 0$ .  
(Use  $g(g^{i-1}Hg^{-(i-1)})g^{-1} \subseteq gHg^{-1}$ ).

If  $|g| = n < +\infty$ , then  $g^{-1}Hg = g^{n-1}Hg^{-(n-1)} \subseteq H$ . We multiply  $g$  on the left and  $g^{-1}$  on the right, then  $H \subseteq gHg^{-1}$ , conclude  $gHg^{-1} = H$ .  $\square$

#### Corollary 3.45

Suppose  $G = \langle S \rangle$  is finite, and  $H \leq G$ . If  $gHg^{-1} \subseteq H$  for all  $g \in S$ , then  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .

**Remark:**

If  $G$  is a finite group, this process makes checking whether the group is normal even faster.

**center of  $G$** 

If  $G$  is a group, the **center of  $G$**  is  $Z(G) = \{g \in G : gh = hg \text{ for all } h \in G\}$ .

**Example:**

$$Z(\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{C}) = \{\lambda 1 : \lambda \neq 0\}$$

**Proposition 3.46**

$$Z(G) \trianglelefteq G.$$

**Proof:**

Exercise. □



# Products

## 4.1 Product groups

### Proposition 4.1

Suppose  $(G_1, \cdot_1)$ ,  $(G_2, \cdot_2)$  are groups. Then  $G_1 \times G_2$  is a group under operation

$$(g_1, g_2) \cdot (h_1, h_2) = (g_1 \cdot_1 h_1, g_2 \cdot_2 h_2)$$

for  $g_i, h_i \in G_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

**Proof:**

Exercise. □

### product of $G_1$ and $G_2$

If  $G_1, G_2$  are groups, the group  $G_1 \times G_2$  with operation from Proposition 4.1 is called the **product of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$** .

### Example: the Klein 4-group

Obviously  $|G_1 \times G_2| = |G_1| \cdot |G_2|$ .

So the group  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$  has order 4. Called the **Klein 4-group**.

Multiplication table:

	(0,0)	(0,1)	(1,0)	(1,1)
(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,1)	(1,0)	(1,1)
(0,1)	(0,1)	(0,0)	(1,1)	(1,0)
(1,0)	(1,0)	(1,1)	(0,0)	(0,1)
(1,1)	(1,1)	(1,0)	(0,1)	(0,0)

All elements have order 2, so it's not cyclic. Identity is  $(0,0)$ . In general, identity of  $G_1 \times G_2$  is  $(e_{G_1}, e_{G_2})$ .

**Proposition 4.2**

Suppose  $G = H \times K$ . Let  $\tilde{H} = \{(h, e_k) : h \in H\}$ ,  $\tilde{K} = \{(e_H, k) : k \in K\}$ . Then

- (a)  $\tilde{H}, \tilde{K} \leq G$ .
- (b)  $H \rightarrow \tilde{H} : h \mapsto (h, e)$  and  $K \rightarrow \tilde{K} : k \mapsto (e, k)$  are isomorphisms.

**Proof:**

Exercise. □

**Remark:**

So we can think of  $H$  and  $K$  as subgroups of  $H \times K$ .  $H \times K$  can have lots of other subgroups as well. Here we listed the two particularly important ones.

Let  $G = H \times K$ ,  $\tilde{H} = H \times \{e\}$ ,  $\tilde{K} = \{e\} \times K \leq H \times K$ .

**Lemma 4.3**

If  $h \in \tilde{H}$ ,  $k \in \tilde{K}$ , then  $hk = kh$ .

**Proof:**

Exercise. □

## 4.2 Homomorphisms between products

**Corollary 4.4**

If  $\phi : H \times K \rightarrow G$  is a homomorphism, then  $\phi(h)\phi(k) = \phi(k)\phi(h)$  for all  $h \in \tilde{H}$ ,  $k \in \tilde{K}$ .

**Proof:**

Immediate. □

Now consider the converse of this corollary.

**Lemma 4.5**

If  $\alpha : H \rightarrow G$ ,  $\beta : K \rightarrow G$  are homomorphisms, such that  $\alpha(h)\beta(k) = \beta(k)\alpha(h)$  for all  $h \in H$ ,  $k \in K$ , then  $\gamma : H \times K \rightarrow G : (h, k) \mapsto \alpha(h)\beta(k)$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma((x, y) \cdot (z, w)) &= \gamma((xz, yw)) \\
 &= \alpha(xz)\beta(yw) \\
 &= \alpha(x)\alpha(z)\beta(y)\beta(w) \\
 &= \alpha(x)\beta(y)\alpha(z)\beta(w) \\
 &= \gamma(x, y)\gamma(z, w)
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, z \in H$ ,  $y, w \in K$ . □

Notation: the homomorphism  $\gamma$  is called  $\alpha \cdot \beta$ . This is not entirely standard. You should mention this homomorphism if you use this notation.

**Remark:**

You might wonder why Lemma 4.5 is called the converse of corollary. In Corollary 4.4, given  $\phi$ , we can get homomorphisms:  $H \rightarrow G : h \mapsto (h, e)$  and apply  $\phi$  to it, similar for  $K$ .

**Corollary 4.6**

If  $\alpha : H \rightarrow H'$ ,  $\beta : K \rightarrow K'$  are homomorphisms, then  $\gamma : H \times K \rightarrow H' \times K' : (h, k) \mapsto (\alpha(h), \beta(k))$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof:**

Define  $\tilde{\alpha} : H \rightarrow H' \times K' : h \mapsto (\alpha(h), e)$  and  $\tilde{\beta} : K \rightarrow H' \times K' : k \mapsto (e, \beta(k))$ .  $\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}$  are homomorphisms (exercise), and that  $\tilde{\alpha}(x)\tilde{\beta}(y) = \tilde{\beta}(y)\tilde{\alpha}(x)$  for all  $x \in H, y \in K$ .

Then  $\gamma((x, y)) = (\alpha(x), e) \cdot (e, \beta(y)) = \tilde{\alpha}(x) \cdot \tilde{\beta}(y)$  so  $\gamma = \tilde{\alpha} \cdot \tilde{\beta}$ .  $\square$

Notation: the homomorphism  $\gamma$  is called  $\alpha \times \beta$ . This notation is quite standard, which is safer to use.

**Corollary 4.7**

If  $\alpha : H \rightarrow H'$ ,  $\beta : K \rightarrow K'$  are isomorphisms, then  $\alpha \times \beta : H \times K \rightarrow H' \times K'$  is an isomorphism.

**Proof:**

$\alpha \times \beta$  has inverse  $\alpha^{-1} \times \beta^{-1}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.8**

$G \rightarrow G \times \{e\} : g \mapsto (g, e)$  is an isomorphism.

**Proof:**

Exercise.  $\square$

Using products, can complete list of groups of order  $p^2$ :

**Proposition 4.9**

Suppose  $p$  is prime,  $|G| = p^2$ . Then either  $G$  is cyclic, or  $G \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ .

**Proof:**

Exercise.  $\square$

Recall our table of small order:

Order	Known groups
1	Trivial group
2	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
3	$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$
4	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$
5	$\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$
6	$\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}, D_6 = S_3, ??$
7	$\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$
8	$\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, D_8, ??$
9	$\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}, (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$

*How do we know if a group is a product?*

Recall Proposition 4.2. Corollary:  $H \times K \rightarrow \tilde{H} \times \tilde{K} : (h, k) \rightarrow ((h, e), (e, k))$  is an isomorphism. So we are looking for two subgroups  $\tilde{H}, \tilde{K}$  which satisfy these properties:

- if  $h \in \tilde{H}, k \in \tilde{K}$ , then  $hk = kh$ .
- every element  $g \in G$  can be written as  $g = \tilde{h}\tilde{k}$  for unique  $\tilde{h} \in \tilde{H}, \tilde{k} \in \tilde{K}$ .

### 4.3 Unique factorizations & internal direct products

Given  $S, T \subseteq G$ , let  $ST = \{gh : g \in S, h \in T\}$ .

#### Lemma 4.10

$G = ST$  if and only if every element  $g \in G$  can be written as  $g = hk$  for some  $h \in S, k \in T$ .

#### Example:

$$D_{2n} = \{s^i r^j\} = \langle s \rangle \cdot \langle r \rangle.$$

Suppose  $G = HK$  for  $H, K \leq G$ . When does  $g = hk$  for unique  $h \in H, k \in K$ ? Uniqueness means that if  $g = hk = h'k'$  for  $h, h' \in H, k, k' \in K$ , then  $h = h'$  and  $k = k'$ .

It is easy to find necessary condition: If  $e \neq g \in H \cap K$ , then  $g = g \cdot e = e \cdot g$ , then factorization is not unique. So if factorization is unique,  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ . It turns out this is also a sufficient condition.

#### Lemma 4.11

Suppose  $G = HK$  for  $H, K \leq G$ . Then every element  $g \in G$  can be written as  $g = hk$  for unique  $h \in H, k \in K$  if and only if  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .

#### Proof:

We've proved it is necessary. Suppose  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ . If  $g = hk = h'k'$ , then  $(h')^{-1}h = k'k^{-1} \in H \cap K$ . Thus  $(h')^{-1}h = k'k^{-1} = e$ . This implies  $h = h', k = k'$ .  $\square$

**internal direct product**

We say that  $G$  is the **internal direct product** of subgroups  $H, K \leq G$  if

- (a)  $HK = G$ ,
- (b)  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ , and
- (c)  $hk = kh$  for all  $h \in H, k \in K$ .

**Remark:**

To make the condition (b) and (c) hold, we put the word “direct” here.

**Example:**

$H \times K$  is the internal direct product of  $\tilde{H} = H \times \{e\}$  and  $\tilde{K} = \{e\} \times K$ .

$D_{2n}$  is not the internal direct product of  $\langle s \rangle$  and  $\langle r \rangle$  because  $sr \neq rs$ .

**Theorem 4.12**

Suppose  $G$  is the internal direct product of  $H$  and  $K$ . Then  $\phi : H \times K \rightarrow G : (h, k) \mapsto hk$  is an isomorphism.

**Proof:**

Let  $i_H : H \rightarrow G : h \mapsto h$  and  $i_K : K \rightarrow G : k \mapsto k$ . By part (c) of definition,  $i_H(h)i_K(k) = i_K(k)i_H(h)$  for all  $h \in H, k \in K$ . So  $\phi = i_H \cdot i_K$  is a homomorphism.

By Lemma 4.11, every element  $g \in G$  can be written as  $g = hk$  for unique  $h \in H, k \in K$ . Thus  $\phi$  is a bijection, then  $\phi$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.13**

If  $G$  is internal direct product of  $H, K$ , then  $H, K \trianglelefteq G$ .

**Proof:**

Suppose  $g \in G$ , so  $g = hk, h \in H, k \in K$ . Then

$$kHk^{-1} = \{khk^{-1} : h \in H\} = \{kk^{-1}h : h \in H\} = H,$$

so  $gHg^{-1} = hkHk^{-1}h^{-1} = hHh^{-1} \subseteq H$ . So  $H \trianglelefteq G$ . Proof for  $K$  is similar.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.14**

$G$  is the internal direct product of  $H, K \leq G$  if and only if

- (a)  $G = HK$ , and
- (b)  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .
- (c)  $H, K \trianglelefteq G$ .

Before proving the proposition, we introduce a definition:

#### commutator

The **commutator** of  $g, h \in G$  is  $[g, h] := g \cdot h \cdot g^{-1} \cdot h^{-1}$ .

#### Lemma 4.15

If  $g, h \in G$ , then  $[g, h] = e$  if and only if  $gh = hg$ .

#### Proof:

This is the proof of Proposition 4.14.

We have proved  $\Rightarrow$ .

If  $h \in H, k \in K$ , then  $[h, k] = (hkh^{-1})k^{-1} \in K$  since  $K \trianglelefteq G$ . But  $[h, k] = h(kh^{-1}k^{-1}) \in H$  since  $H \trianglelefteq G$ . So  $[h, k] \in H \cap K = \{e\} \implies [h, k] = e$ . Therefore,  $hk = kh$  for all  $h \in H, k \in K$ , thus  $G$  is indeed an internal direct product.  $\square$

# Quotient groups and the isomorphism theorems

week 4

## 5.1 Quotient groups

Recall an example:  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{[a] : 0 \leq a < n\}$ . In this example,  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is a group, with operation  $[a] + [b] = [a + b]$ . *Can we generalize this example? Can we define a group structure on  $G/H$  by  $[g] \cdot [h] = [gh]$ ? or  $gH \cdot hH = ghH$ ? (Here we regard  $gH$  and  $hH$  as elements in  $G/H$  instead of sets.)* Big problem: this might not be **well-defined**.

### relation

A **relation**  $R$  between two sets  $X$  and  $Y$  is a subset of  $X \times Y$ . Notation  $a R b$  if  $(a, b) \in R$ .

A relation  $R$  is a **function** from  $X \rightarrow Y$  if

- (a) for all  $x \in X$ , there is  $y \in Y$  such that  $x R y$ , and
- (b) for all  $x \in X$ ,  $y, z \in Y$ , if  $x R y$  and  $x R z$  then  $y = z$ .

Can define relation  $\rightarrow$  between  $G/H \times G/H$  and  $G/H$  by  $([g], [h]) \rightarrow [gh]$  for all  $g, h \in G$ ? Yes. It is properly defined, we just need to find a subset of  $X \times Y$  (in this case  $(G/H \times G/H) \times G/H$ ).

Is this relation a function? For (a), if  $x = ([g], [h])$ , can take  $y = [gh]$ . What about (b)?

### Lemma 5.1

The relation  $\rightarrow$  between  $G/H \times G/H$  and  $G/H$  defined by  $([g], [h]) \rightarrow [gh]$  is a function if and only if  $H$  is normal. Furthermore, if  $H$  is normal, then  $ghH = gH \cdot hH$ , the setwise product. (Recall  $S \cdot T = \{xy : x \in S, y \in T\}$ )

**Proof:**

$\Rightarrow$  Suppose  $\rightarrow$  is a function. Suppose  $g \in G, h \in H$ . Then  $([g], [g^{-1}]) \rightarrow [e]$ . Since  $g^{-1} \cdot gh = h \in H$  from Proposition 3.37, then  $g \sim_H gh$ , then  $[g] = [gh]$ , and  $([gh], [g^{-1}]) \rightarrow [ghg^{-1}]$ . Since  $\rightarrow$  is a function,  $[ghg^{-1}] = [e]$ . But this means  $ghg^{-1} \sim_H e$ , i.e.,  $ghg^{-1} \in H$ . Since this holds for all  $g \in G, h \in H$ . Hence  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .

$\Leftarrow$  First let's prove  $H$  normal  $\implies ghH = gH \cdot hH$ .

Note that  $gH \cdot hH = gh(h^{-1}Hh) \cdot H$ . If  $H$  is normal, then  $h^{-1}Hh \subseteq H$ , then  $(h^{-1}Hh) \cdot H \subseteq H$ . Since  $e \in H^{-1}Hh$ ,  $(h^{-1}Hh) \cdot H = H$  if we take  $e$  on the left and every element of  $H$  on the right. Thus if  $H$  is normal, then  $gH \cdot hH = ghH$ .

Suppose that  $(S, T) \rightarrow R$  and  $(S, T) \rightarrow R'$  for  $S, T, R, R' \in G/H$ . Then  $R = S \cdot T = R'$  by the definition of equivalent class. So  $\rightarrow$  is a function.  $\square$

$G/N$  is called the **quotient of  $G$  by  $N$** , or a **quotient group**.

Elements of  $G/N$  can be written as  $gN$  or  $[g]$  or  $\bar{g}$ .

Group operation can be stated as  $gN \cdot hN = ghN$  or  $[g] \cdot [h] = [gh]$  or  $\bar{g} \cdot \bar{h} = \overline{gh}$

$q$  (defined in the following theorem) is called the **quotient map** or **quotient homomorphism**.

**Theorem 5.2**

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then the setwise product  $gN \cdot hN = ghN$  makes  $G/N$  into a group. Further more, the function  $q : G \rightarrow G/N : g \mapsto gN$  is a surjective homomorphism with  $\ker q = N$ .

**Proof:**

$([g] \cdot [h]) \cdot [k] = [gh] \cdot [k] = [ghk] = [g] \cdot ([h] \cdot [k])$  for all  $[g], [h], [k] \in G/N$ , so  $\cdot$  is associative.

$[e] \cdot [g] = [e \cdot g] = [g] = [g \cdot e] = [g] \cdot [e]$  for all  $[g] \in G/N$ , so  $[e] = N$  is an identity.

$[g] \cdot [g^{-1}] = [gg^{-1}] = [e] = [g^{-1}g] = [g^{-1}] \cdot [g]$  for all  $[g] \in G/N$ , so every element of  $G/N$  has an inverse.

$q$  clearly surjective, and  $q(gh) = [gh] = [g] \cdot [h] = q(g) \cdot q(h)$ .  $q(g) = [g] = [e]$  if and only if  $g \in N$ , so  $\ker q = N$ .  $\square$

We previously proved that if  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism then  $\ker \phi \trianglelefteq G$ .

**Corollary 5.3**

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then there is a group  $K$  and homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  such that  $N = \ker \phi$ .

**Proof:**

Take  $K = G/N$ , and  $q : G \rightarrow G/N$  the quotient homomorphism. Then  $\ker q = N$ .  $\square$



**Example:**

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ : can now define this using theorem, no need to rely on pre-existing definition.

$D_{2n}/\langle s \rangle$ : Cosets are  $\langle s \rangle = \{s^i : 0 \leq i < n\}$  and  $\langle s \rangle r = \{s^i r : 0 \leq i < n\}$

Multiplication table:

	$\langle s \rangle$	$\langle s \rangle r$
$\langle s \rangle$	$\langle s \rangle$	$\langle s \rangle r$
$\langle s \rangle r$	$\langle s \rangle r$	$\langle s \rangle$

So  $D_{2n}/\langle s \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

If  $N$  not normal:  $\langle r \rangle$  has left cosets  $s^i \langle r \rangle = \{s^i, s^i r\}, 0 \leq i < n$ . If we take two left cosets and do setwise product:

$$\langle r \rangle \cdot s \langle r \rangle = \{s, sr, s^{-1}r, s^{-1}\}$$

is not a left coset of  $\langle r \rangle$ . Also  $e \sim_{\langle r \rangle} r$ ,  $e \cdot s = s$  is in a different coset from  $r \cdot s = s^{-1}r$  so  $[g] \cdot [h] = [gh]$  is not a well-defined operation.

See  $D_{2n}/Z(D_{2n})$  on homework.

**Example: projective general linear group**

$\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})/Z(\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K})$ : Recall  $Z(\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K}) = \{\lambda I : \lambda \neq 0\}$ .

If  $M$  is invertible,  $[M] = \{\lambda M : \lambda \neq 0\}$ .

$$[M] \cdot [N] = \{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 MN : \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \neq 0\} = [MN]$$

We can view  $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$  as group of invertible linear transformations of  $\mathbb{K}^n$  (acts on vectors).

$\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})/Z(\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K})$  is invertible transformations of lines through origin in  $\mathbb{K}^n$ .

$\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})/Z(\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K})$  is called the **projective general linear group**, and is denoted by  $\mathrm{PGL}_n(\mathbb{K})$ . It is a very important group in some areas of geometry.

In general, can look at:

- $G/Z(G)$ , any group  $G$
- $G/\ker \phi$ , any homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$
- $G/N$ , any group  $G$  and normal subgroup  $N \trianglelefteq G$

How do we find the group structure on  $G/N$ ? It might be hard.

## 5.2 The universal property of quotients

Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . What are the homomorphisms  $\psi : G/N \rightarrow K$ ?

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \psi \circ q & \\
 G & \xrightarrow{\quad} & K \\
 & \searrow q \quad \nearrow \psi & \\
 & G/N &
 \end{array}$$

Every such  $\psi$  gives a homomorphism  $\psi \circ q : G \rightarrow K$  (this homomorphism is sometimes also called lift, pullback of  $\psi$  to  $G$ ). Not every homomorphism from  $G \rightarrow K$  is a lift of  $\psi$ . What homomorphisms  $G \rightarrow K$  are lift of some homomorphism  $\psi$ ?

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \phi & \\
 G & \xrightarrow{\quad} & K \\
 & \searrow q \quad \dashrightarrow \psi? & \\
 & G/N &
 \end{array}$$

If we start with  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$ , when does there exist  $\psi$  such that  $\phi = \psi \circ q$ ? Given  $\phi$ , when can fill in  $\psi$  so that diagram **commutes**? Here “commute” means if we start at any point in the diagram and go to any other point, it doesn’t matter what path we take to get there, we get the same function.

#### Theorem 5.4: Universal property of quotients

Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism, and  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Let  $q : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient homomorphism. Then there is a homomorphism  $\psi : G/N \rightarrow K$  such that  $\psi \circ q = \phi$  if and only if  $N \subseteq \ker \phi$ . Further more, if  $\psi$  exists, then it is unique.

In other words, can fill in dashed line so that diagram “commutes” if and only if  $N \subseteq \ker \phi$ .

#### $\text{Hom}(G, K)$

If  $G, K$  are groups, let  $\text{Hom}(G, K)$  be the set of (homo)morphisms  $G \rightarrow K$ .

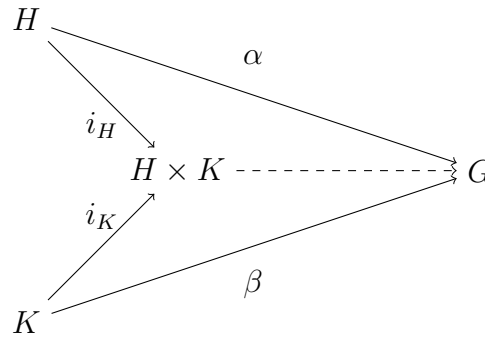
#### Corollary 5.5

For any groups  $G, K$ , and  $N \trianglelefteq G$ , the function  $q^* : \text{Hom}(G/N, K) \rightarrow \{\phi \in \text{Hom}(G, K) : N \subseteq \ker \phi\} : \psi \mapsto \psi \circ q$  is a bijection.

Recall we previously proved:

#### Theorem 5.6: Universal property of products

Let  $\alpha : H \rightarrow G$  and  $\beta : K \rightarrow G$  be homomorphisms, and let  $i_H : H \rightarrow H \times K$  and  $i_K : K \rightarrow H \times K$  be the inclusions of  $H$  and  $K$  in the product of  $H \times K$ . Then there is a homomorphism  $\phi : H \times K \rightarrow G$  such that  $\phi \circ i_H = \alpha$  and  $\phi \circ i_K = \beta$  if and only if  $\alpha(h)\beta(k) = \beta(k)\alpha(h)$  for all  $h \in H, k \in K$ .



### Corollary 5.7

There is a bijection between  $\text{Hom}(H \times K, G)$  and

$$\{(\alpha, \beta) \in \text{Hom}(H, G) \times \text{Hom}(K, G) : \alpha(h)\beta(k) = \beta(k)\alpha(h) \text{ for all } h \in H, k \in K\}$$

#### Remark:

We won't formally define the term *universal property*. Often that's held off until grad level. But even if we want to define it now, we would need some category theory. Intuitively, we can think about it as a type of theorem setting up a bijection between some sets and set of homomorphisms.

We still need to prove Theorem 5.4. Before we get into the proof, let's prove the following lemma:

### Lemma 5.8

If  $\alpha : G \rightarrow H$  is surjective,  $\psi_i : H \rightarrow K, i = 1, 2$  are such that  $\psi_1 \circ \alpha = \psi_2 \circ \alpha$ , then  $\psi_1 = \psi_2$ .

#### Proof:

If  $h \in H$ , then there is  $g \in G$  with  $\alpha(g) = h$ . So  $\psi_1(h) = \psi_2(\alpha(g)) = \psi_2(h)$ . We conclude that  $\psi_1 = \psi_2$ .  $\square$

With this lemma, we can dive into the proof of Theorem 5.4:

#### Proof:

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\psi$  exists, and  $n \in N$ , then  $\phi(n) = \psi(q(n)) = \psi(e) = e$  so  $N \subseteq \ker \phi$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Suppose  $N \subseteq \ker \phi$ . Define  $\psi : G/N \rightarrow K : [g] \mapsto \phi(g)$ . To show  $\psi$  is well-defined, note that if  $[g] = [h]$ , then  $g^{-1}h \in N \subseteq \ker \phi$ , so  $\phi(g)^{-1}\phi(h) = \phi(g^{-1}h) = e$ , so  $\phi(g) = \phi(h)$ .

Clearly  $\psi \circ q(g) = \psi([g]) = \phi(g)$  for all  $g \in G$ , so  $\psi \circ q = \phi$ .

If  $[g], [h] \in G/N$ , then

$$\psi([g] \cdot [h]) = \psi([gh]) = \phi(gh) = \phi(g)\phi(h) = \psi([g])\psi([h])$$

so  $\psi$  is a homomorphism.

If  $\psi' : G/N \rightarrow K$  is another homomorphism with  $\psi' \circ q = \phi$  then  $\psi' \circ q = \psi \circ q$ . Since  $q$  is surjective, by Lemma 5.8,  $\psi' = \psi$ . So uniqueness holds.  $\square$

**Remark:**

Equivalent way to define  $\psi$ :  $\phi(gN) = \phi(g)\phi(N) = \phi(g)\{e\} = \{\phi(g)\}$ . So if  $S \in G/N$ , then  $\phi(S) = \{b\}$ , a singleton set. Can define  $\psi(S) = b$  for  $b \in K$  such that  $\phi(S) = \{b\}$ .

### 5.3 The first isomorphism theorem

Recall: If  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism then  $[G : \ker \phi] = |\operatorname{Im} \phi|$ . We prove this by setting up a bijection  $\psi : G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \operatorname{Im} \phi$  defined by  $\psi(S) = b$ , where  $b \in K$  is such that  $\phi(S) = \{b\}$ . This looks like what we just did! Now we know  $G/\ker \phi$  is a group,  $|G/\ker \phi| = [G : \ker \phi] = |\operatorname{Im} \phi|$ . Maybe this bijection is an isomorphism?

#### Theorem 5.9: First isomorphism theorem

Suppose that  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  is a homomorphism. Then there is an isomorphism  $\psi : G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \operatorname{Im} \phi$  such that  $\phi = \psi \circ q$ , where  $q : G \rightarrow G/\ker \phi$  is the quotient homomorphism.

**Proof:**

$\ker \phi \subseteq \ker \phi$ , so by universal property there is a homomorphism  $\psi : G/\ker \phi \rightarrow K$  with  $\psi \circ q = \phi$ .

For  $g \in G$ ,  $\psi([g]) = \phi(g)$ , so plainly  $\operatorname{Im} \psi = \operatorname{Im} \phi$ . Thus we can regard  $\psi$  as surjective homomorphism  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \operatorname{Im} \phi$ .

$\psi$  agrees with the function  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \operatorname{Im} \phi$  defined previously, so  $\psi$  is a bijection. Therefore  $\psi$  is an isomorphism.

Alternatively, we can prove it from the scratch. If  $\psi([g]) = e$ , then  $\phi(g) = e$ , so  $g \in \ker \phi$  which implies  $[g] = [e]$ . So  $\psi$  is injective. Thus it is isomorphism.  $\square$

The first isomorphism theorem is the best way to determine  $G/N$ .

**Example:**  $\operatorname{GL}_n \mathbb{K} / \operatorname{SL}_n \mathbb{K}$

Recall  $\operatorname{SL}_n(\mathbb{K}) \trianglelefteq \operatorname{GL}_n(\mathbb{K})$  is defined as the kernel of homomorphism  $\det : \operatorname{GL}_n \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^\times$ .

The image of  $\det$  is  $\operatorname{Im} \det = \mathbb{K}^\times$ . By first isomorphism theorem,  $\operatorname{GL}_n \mathbb{K} / \operatorname{SL}_n \mathbb{K} \cong \mathbb{K}^\times$ .

**Example:**  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$

Consider  $\mathbb{Z} \trianglelefteq \mathbb{R}^+$ . What is  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ ?

Have homomorphism  $\exp : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times : x \mapsto e^{2\pi i x}$ . Thus  $e^{2\pi i x} = 1$  if and only if  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$\operatorname{Im} \exp = \{a \in \mathbb{C} : |a| = 1\} =: S^1$  (the **circle group**).

So  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \cong S^1$

In general, to find  $G/N$ , we can find a group  $K$  and homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow K$  such that  $\ker \phi = N$ . Then we can conclude  $G/N \cong \operatorname{Im} \phi$ .

Sometimes we can also turn this around and use first isomorphic theorem to find  $\operatorname{Im} \phi$ .

## 5.4 The correspondence theorem

a.k.a. the fourth isomorphism theorem. We want to understand subgroups of  $G/N$  using  $q : G \rightarrow G/N$ . Recall: Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a function,  $S \subseteq X, T \subseteq Y$ . Then

- $f(S) := \{f(x) : x \in S\}$ , and
- $f^{-1}(T) := \{x \in X : f(x) \in T\}$

We previously proved:

### Proposition 3.5

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism,  $K \leq G$ , then  $\phi(K) \leq H$ . (a.k.a. pushforward, image of  $K$ )

### Proposition 3.10

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism,  $K \leq H$ , then  $\phi^{-1}(K) \leq G$ . (a.k.a. pullback of  $K$ )

If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a bijection,  $f^{-1}(f(S)) = S$  and  $f(f^{-1}(T)) = T$ . Thus if  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism, we get a bijection.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & K \mapsto \phi(K) & \\ \text{Subgroups of } G & \xleftrightarrow{\hspace{1.5cm}} & \text{Subgroups of } H \\ & \phi^{-1}(K') \leftarrow K' & \end{array}$$

Furthermore:

- $K_1 \leq K_2 \iff \phi(K_1) \leq \phi(K_2)$
- $\phi(K_1 \cap K_2) = \phi(K_1) \cap \phi(K_2)$
- $K$  is normal  $\iff \phi(K)$  is normal
- $\phi(\langle S \rangle) = \langle \phi(S) \rangle$ . This holds for any homomorphisms.  $\phi^{-1}(\langle S \rangle) = \langle \phi^{-1}(S) \rangle$  doesn't have to hold if  $\phi$  is not isomorphism.
- $[G : K] = [H : \phi(K)]$

Some identities for bijections don't hold for general functions:

Always holds	Don't always hold
$f(A) \subseteq f(B)$ if $A \subseteq B$	$f(A \cap B) = f(A) \cap f(B)$
$f^{-1}(A) \subseteq f^{-1}(B)$ if $A \subseteq B$	$f^{-1}(f(A)) = A$
$f^{-1}(A \cup B) = f^{-1}(A) \cup f^{-1}(B)$	$f(f^{-1}(B)) = B$
$f^{-1}(A \cap B) = f^{-1}(A) \cap f^{-1}(B)$	
$f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B)$	

Everything in the left column holds for any function  $f$ . Everything in the right column

holds when  $f$  is a bijection, but not for general functions  $f$ .

Order is preserved:

#### Lemma 5.10

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism, then:

- (a) If  $K_1 \leq K_2 \leq G$ , then  $f(K_1) \leq f(K_2)$
- (b) If  $K_1 \leq K_2 \leq H$ , then  $f^{-1}(K_1) \leq f^{-1}(K_2)$

Note that we can't say  $K_1 \leq K_2$  if and only if  $\phi(K_1) \leq \phi(K_2)$  since  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(K)) \neq K$  in general.

Also, pullback preserves intersection:

#### Lemma 5.11

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism, and  $K_1, K_2 \leq H$ , then  $\phi^{-1}(K_1 \cap K_2) = \phi^{-1}(K_1) \cap \phi^{-1}(K_2)$ .

Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a surjection, then we can move  $f(f^{-1}(B)) = B$  from the right column to the left column:

Always holds	Don't always hold
$f(A) \subseteq f(B)$ if $A \subseteq B$	$f(A \cap B) = f(A) \cap f(B)$
$f^{-1}(A) \subseteq f^{-1}(B)$ if $A \subseteq B$	$f^{-1}(f(A)) = A$
$f^{-1}(A \cup B) = f^{-1}(A) \cup f^{-1}(B)$	<del><math>f(f^{-1}(B)) = B</math></del>
$f^{-1}(A \cap B) = f^{-1}(A) \cap f^{-1}(B)$	
$f(A \cup B) = f(A) \cup f(B)$	
$f(f^{-1}(B)) = B$	

#### Lemma 5.12

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a surjective homomorphism, and  $K \leq H$ , then  $\phi(\phi^{-1}(K)) = K$ .

#### Sub( $G$ )

If  $G$  is a group, let  $\text{Sub}(G)$  denote set of subgroups of  $G$ .

If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism, have induced functions  $\phi : \text{Sub}(G) \rightarrow \text{Sub}(H)$  and  $\phi^{-1} : \text{Sub}(H) \rightarrow \text{Sub}(G)$ .

If  $\phi$  is surjective, by Lemma 5.12, then  $\phi$  is *left* inverse to  $\phi^{-1}$ . (It might not have inverse. Sometimes we use  $\phi^*$ .)

So  $\phi^{-1} : \text{Sub}(H) \rightarrow \text{Sub}(G)$  is injective. Question: *What's the image of  $\phi^{-1}$  in  $\text{Sub}(G)$ ?*

**Lemma 5.13**

Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism. Then

- (a) If  $K \leq H$ , then  $\ker \phi \leq \phi^{-1}(K)$ .
- (b) If  $\ker \phi \leq K \leq G$ , then  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(K)) = K$ .

**Proof:**

- (a) If  $K \leq H$ , then  $\ker \phi \leq \phi^{-1}(K)$ .
- (b) It's clear that  $K \leq \phi^{-1}(\phi(K))$ .

Suppose  $y \in \phi^{-1}(\phi(K))$ . Then  $\phi(y) \in \phi(K)$ , so  $\phi(y) = \phi(k)$  for some  $k \in K$ . Since  $\phi(k^{-1}y) = e$ ,  $k^{-1}y \in \ker \phi \subseteq K$ , thus  $y \in K$ . We conclude that  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(K)) \subseteq K$ .  $\square$

From this lemma, we can conclude:  $K = \phi^{-1}(K') \iff \ker \phi \leq K$ .

When we combine Lemma 5.12 and Lemma 5.13, we get the following theorem:

**Theorem 5.14: Correspondence theorem**

Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be a surjective homomorphism. Then there is bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{l} \text{Subgroups} \\ K \text{ of } G \text{ s.t.} \\ \ker \phi \leq K \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K \mapsto \phi(K)} \\ \xleftarrow{\phi^{-1}(K') \leftarrow K'} \end{array} & \begin{array}{l} \text{Subgroups} \\ K' \text{ of } H \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

Furthermore, if  $\ker \phi \leq K, K_1, K_2 \leq G$  then

- (a)  $K_1 \leq K_2 \iff \phi(K_1) \leq \phi(K_2)$
- (b)  $\phi(K_1 \cap K_2) = \phi(K_1) \cap \phi(K_2)$
- (c)  $K$  is normal  $\iff \phi(K)$  is normal

**Proof:**

Since  $\phi$  is surjective,  $\phi(\phi^{-1}(K')) = K'$  for all  $K' \leq H$ . Conversely, if  $\ker \phi \leq K \leq G$ , then  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(K)) = K$ . So  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  are inverses on the specified sets. So they are bijections.

- (a) follows from fact that  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  are inverses and preserve  $\leq$ . For instance, if  $\phi(K_1) \leq \phi(K_2)$  then  $K_1 = \phi^{-1}(\phi(K_1)) \leq \phi^{-1}(\phi(K_2)) = K_2$
- (b)  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(K_1) \cap \phi(K_2)) = \phi^{-1}(\phi(K_1)) \cap \phi^{-1}(\phi(K_2)) = K_1 \cap K_2$  since  $\phi(\phi^{-1}(K)) = K$ ,  $\phi(K_1 \cap K_2) = \phi(K_1) \cap \phi(K_2)$ ,
- (c) Exercise.  $\square$

What about quotient groups?

If  $N \trianglelefteq G$ , then  $q : G \rightarrow G/N$  is a surjection, so we have

**Theorem 5.15: Correspondence theorem for quotient groups**

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then there is a bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Subgroups } N \leq K \leq G & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{K \mapsto q(K)} \\ \xleftarrow{q^{-1}(K') \mapsto K'} \end{array} & \text{Subgroups } K' \text{ of } G/N \end{array}$$

Furthermore, if  $N \leq K, K_1, K_2 \leq G$  then

- (a)  $K_1 \leq K_2 \iff q(K_1) \leq q(K_2)$
- (b)  $q(K_1 \cap K_2) = q(K_1) \cap q(K_2)$
- (c)  $K \text{ is normal} \iff q(K) \text{ is normal}$

Recall from first isomorphism theorem: If  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a surjective homomorphism, then  $G/\ker \phi \cong H$ . So there is a bijection between  $\text{Sub}(H)$  and  $\text{Sub}(G/\ker \phi)$ .

**Exercise**

Check that

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{first isomorphism theorem} \\ \text{subgroup correspondence for isomorphisms} \\ \text{correspondence theorem for quotient groups} \end{array} \right\} \implies \begin{array}{l} \text{correspondence theorem} \\ \text{for surjective homomorphisms} \end{array}$$

Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq K \leq G$ , we immediately see that  $N \trianglelefteq K$  since  $kNk^{-1} \subseteq N$  for all  $k \in K \subseteq G$ .

Let  $q_G : G \rightarrow G/N$  be quotient map. Since  $N \trianglelefteq K$ , also have quotient map  $q_K : K \rightarrow K/N$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{i_K} & G \\ q_K \downarrow & \searrow q_G \circ i & \downarrow q_G \\ K/N & \xrightarrow{kN \mapsto kN} & G/N \end{array}$$

It's easy to see  $\ker q_G \circ i = N$ , and by first isomorphism theorem, we get an isomorphism  $\psi : K/N \rightarrow \text{Im } q \circ i_K = q(K)$  such that  $\psi \circ q_K = q_G \circ i$ . In other words, if  $k \in K$ , then  $\psi(kN) = q(k) = kN$ . Let's summarize this into a proposition:



### Proposition 5.16

Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq K \leq G$ . Let  $q : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map. Then the function  $K/N \rightarrow q(K) \leq G/N : kN \mapsto kN$  is an isomorphism.

Because of this isomorphism, we use the following notation:

$K/N$

If  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq K \leq G$ , then the subgroup  $q(K)$  corresponding to  $K$  in  $G/N$  is denoted by  $K/N$ .

**Example:**  $D_{2n}$

Let  $G = D_{2n}$ ,  $N = \langle s \rangle$ , where  $s$  is rotation generator.

Subgroups of  $D_{2n}$  containing  $N$  correspond to subgroups of  $D_{2n}/N = \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

$\mathbb{Z}_2$  has two subgroups,  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $\{e\}$ .

So there are only two subgroups of  $D_{2n}$  containing  $N$ .

**Example:**  $GL_n \mathbb{K}$

$GL_n \mathbb{K}/SL_n \mathbb{K} \cong \mathbb{K}^\times$ , so subgroups of  $GL_n \mathbb{K}$  containing  $SL_n \mathbb{K}$  correspond to subgroups of  $\mathbb{K}^\times$  (of which there can be lots:  $\{1, -1\}, \{2^x | x \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ )

## 5.5 The third isomorphism theorem

Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq K \leq G$ . From correspondence theorem:  $K \trianglelefteq G$  if and only if  $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$ . Suppose  $K/N \trianglelefteq G/N$ . What's  $(G/N)/(K/N)$ ?

**Third isomorphism theorem, informal version**

$$(G/N)/(K/N) \cong G/K.$$

**Example:**

Suppose  $n|m$ , so that  $m\mathbb{Z} \leq n\mathbb{Z}$ .

Then  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})/(n\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

$$(\mathbb{Z}/20\mathbb{Z})/(5\mathbb{Z}/20\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$$

**Theorem 5.17: Third isomorphism theorem**

Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq K \trianglelefteq G$ . Let:

- $q_1$  be the quotient map  $G \rightarrow G/N$ ,
- $q_2$  be the quotient map  $G/N \rightarrow (G/N)/(K/N)$ , and
- $q_3$  be the quotient map  $G \rightarrow G/K$ .

Then there is an isomorphism  $\psi : G/K \rightarrow (G/N)/(K/N)$  such that  $\psi \circ q_3 = q_2 \circ q_1$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G & \xrightarrow{q_1} & G/N \\
 q_3 \downarrow & & \downarrow q_2 \\
 G/K & \xrightarrow{\psi} & (G/N)/(K/N)
 \end{array}$$

**Proof:**

Note that  $\ker q_1 \circ q_1 = (q_2 \circ q_1)^{-1}(\{e\}) = q_1^{-1}(q_2^{-1}(\{e\})) = q_1^{-1}(K/N) = K$

and  $q_1, q_2$  surjective,  $\text{Im } q_2 \circ q_1 = (G/N)/(K/N)$ .

By first isomorphism theorem, there is an isomorphism  $\psi : G/K \rightarrow (G/N)/(K/N)$  such that  $\psi \circ q_3 = q_2 \circ q_1$ .  $\square$

*What if  $K$  isn't normal?* Then  $G/K$  isn't a group, and neither is  $(G/N)/(K/N)$ . However we can still talk about  $[G : K]$  and  $[G/N : K/N]$ .

**Proposition 5.18**

If  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq K \leq G$ , then  $[G : K] = [G/N : K/N]$ .

In fact, there's no reason to use quotient spaces. This holds for surjective homomorphisms.

**Proposition 5.19**

Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be a surjective homomorphism, and suppose  $\ker \phi \leq K \leq G$ . Then  $[G : K] = [H : \phi(K)]$ .

These two propositions are actually equivalent by the first isomorphism theorem.

**Proof:**

Define a function  $f : G/K \rightarrow H/\phi(K) : gK \mapsto \phi(g)\phi(K)$ .

Well-defined: If  $gK = hK$ , then  $h^{-1}g \in K \implies \phi(h)^{-1}\phi(g) = \phi(h^{-1}g) \in \phi(K)$ . So  $\phi(g)\phi(K) = \phi(h)\phi(K)$ .

Since  $\phi$  is surjective,  $f$  is onto.

Suppose  $f(gK) = f(hK)$ , so  $\phi(g)\phi(K) = \phi(h)\phi(K)$ . Then  $\phi(h^{-1}g) = \phi(h)^{-1}\phi(g) \in \phi(K) \implies h^{-1}g \in \phi^{-1}(\phi(K)) = K$ . So  $gK = hK$ , and  $f$  is injective.

We conclude that  $f$  is a bijection.  $\square$

## 5.6 The second isomorphism theorem

Recall *internal direct product* and lemma from products:

### Lemma 4.11

Suppose  $G = HK$  for  $H, K \leq G$ . Then every element  $g \in G$  can be written as  $g = hk$  for unique  $h \in H, k \in K$  if and only if  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .

We didn't use the fact  $G = HK$  in the proof. If  $HK \subsetneq G$ , then we won't be able to write  $g = hk$ , but for the  $g$  that we can write in the form of  $hk$ , the factorization is unique if and only if  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ . Then we can reword this lemma a little more generally.

Suppose  $H, K \leq G$ .

### Lemma 5.20

Every element of  $HK$  can be written as  $hk$  for unique  $h \in H, k \in K$ , if and only if  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .

If  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ , then  $|HK| = |H| \cdot |K|$ .

What is  $|HK|$  if  $H \cap K \neq \{e\}$ ?

$HK = \bigcup_{h \in H} hK$ , a union of cosets of  $K$ .

Let  $X = \{hK : h \in H\} \subseteq G/K$ .

Then  $X$  is a partition of  $HK$ , so  $|HK| = |X| \cdot |K|$ .

How large is  $X$ ?

### Lemma 5.21

Let  $H, K \leq G$ . If  $h_1, h_2 \in H$ , then  $h_1K = h_2K$  if and only if  $h_1(H \cap K) = h_2(H \cap K)$ .

**Proof:**

$$h_1K = h_2K \iff h_1^{-1}h_2 \in K \iff h_1^{-1}h_2 \in H \cap K.$$

But  $h_1^{-1}h_2 \in H \cap K$  if and only if  $h_1H \cap K = h_2H \cap K$ . This uses the fact that  $H \cap K \leq H$ .  $\square$

Rephrasing: Consider equivalence relations  $\sim_K$  on  $G$ ,  $\sim_{H \cap K}$  on  $H$ . If  $h_1, h_2 \in H$ , then  $h_1 \sim_K h_2 \iff h_1 \sim_{H \cap K} h_2$ .

**Corollary 5.22**

$H/H \cap K \rightarrow X : hH \cap K \rightarrow hK$  is a bijection.

**Proof:**

From Lemma 5.21, it is well-defined, injective. Surjective obvious.  $\square$

Now going back to what we are trying to do: If  $H, K \leq G$ ,  $X = \{hK : h \in H\}$  partitions  $HK$ , so  $|HK| = |X| \cdot |K|$ .

$|X| = [H : H \cap K]$ , so  $|HK| = [H : H \cap K]|K|$ . Using  $[H : H \cap K] \cdot |H \cap K| = |H|$  (by Lagrange's theorem), we have

**Proposition 5.23**

If  $H, K \leq G$ , then  $|HK| |H \cap K| = |H| |K|$ .

Note that this proposition also holds when  $H$  and  $K$  are infinite. Another way to think about this formula if  $H, K$  finite:

$[H : H \cap K] = |X| = \frac{|HK|}{|K|}$  LHS is an index, RHS is a fraction. Is RHS an index as well? The problem:  $HK$  not necessarily a group. Thus RHS might not be an index. But when is  $HK$  a group?

**Proposition 5.24**

Let  $H, K \leq G$ . Then  $HK \leq G \iff HK = KH \iff KH \subseteq HK$ .

**Proof:**

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) If  $HK \leq G$ , and  $h \in H, k \in K$ , then  $h, k \in HK$ , so  $kh \in HK$ . Also  $k^{-1}h^{-1} \in HK$ , so  $k^{-1}h^{-1} = h_0k_0$ . Hence  $hk = (k^{-1}h^{-1})^{-1} = k_0^{-1}h_0^{-1} \in KH$ . Sp  $KH \subseteq HK$  and  $HK \subseteq KH \implies HK = KH$

(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) Conversely, suppose  $KH \subseteq HK$ . We always have  $e \in HK$ . If  $x, y \in HK$ , then  $x = h_0k_0, y = h_1k_1$  for  $h_0, h_1 \in H, k_0, k_1 \in K$ . Since  $KH \subseteq HK$ ,  $k_0^{-1}(h_0^{-1}h_1) = h_2k_2$  for  $h_2 \in H, k_2 \in K$ . So  $x^{-1}y = k_0^{-1}h_0^{-1}h_1k_1 = h_2(k_2k_1) \in HK$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 5.25**

If  $KH \subseteq HK$ , then  $[H : H \cap K] = [HK : K]$ .

When is  $KH \subseteq HK$ ?

Sufficient condition:

for all  $h \in H$ , there is  $h' \in H$  such that  $Kh = h'K$ .

Recall: if  $Kh = h'K$ , then  $h'K = hK$ .

Rephrase condition:  $hKh^{-1} = K$ , for all  $h \in H$ , i.e.,  $H \subseteq N_G(K)$ .

**Corollary 5.26**

If  $H \subseteq N_G(K)$ , then  $HK \leq G$ , and hence  $[H : H \cap K] = [HK : K]$ .

What else does the condition  $H \subseteq N_G(K)$  imply?

We know  $hKh^{-1} = K$ ,  $kKk^{-1} = K$ , so

$$H, K \subseteq N_{HK}(K) \implies N_{HK}(K) = HK \implies K \trianglelefteq HK.$$

If  $k \in H \cap K, h \in H$ , then  $hkh^{-1} \in H \cap K$ . So  $H \cap K \trianglelefteq H$ .

**Theorem 5.27: Second isomorphism theorem**

Suppose  $H \subseteq N_G(K)$ . Then  $HK \leq G, K \trianglelefteq HK$ , and  $H \cap K \trianglelefteq H$ . Further more, if  $i_H : H \rightarrow HK$  is the inclusion,  $q_1 : H \rightarrow H/H \cap K$  and  $q_2 : HK \rightarrow HK/K$  are the quotient maps, then there is an isomorphism  $\psi : H/H \cap K \rightarrow HK/K$  such that  $\psi \circ q_1 = q_2 \circ i_H$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \xrightarrow{i_H} & HK \\ q_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow q_2 \\ H/H \cap K & \xrightarrow{\psi} & HK/K \end{array}$$

**Proof:**

Already shown  $HK \leq G, K \trianglelefteq HK, H \cap K \trianglelefteq H$ .

If  $h \in H, k \in K$ , then  $hkhK = hK$ . So  $HK/K = \{gK : g \in HK\} = \{hK : h \in H\}$ . Hence  $\text{Im } q_2 \circ i_H = \{hK : h \in H\} = HK/K$ .

$$\ker q_2 \circ i_H = i_H^{-1}(q_2^{-1}(\{e\})) = i_H^{-1}(K) = H \cap K$$

By the first isomorphism theorem, there is an isomorphism  $\psi$  as desired.  $\square$

**Example:  $\text{PGL}_n \mathbb{C}$** 

Recall that  $\text{PGL}_n \mathbb{C} = \text{GL}_n \mathbb{C} / Z(\text{GL}_n \mathbb{C})$ .

Let  $K = Z(\text{GL}_n \mathbb{C}) = \{\lambda 1 : \lambda \neq 0\}$ . Since  $K \trianglelefteq G$ ,  $N_G(K) = G$ . Let  $H = \text{SL}_n \mathbb{C} = \{M \in G : \det M = 1\} \trianglelefteq G = N_G(K)$ , so  $HK \leq G$ . Suppose  $M \in \text{GL}_n \mathbb{C}$ , let  $\lambda = \det M$ . Then  $\det \lambda^{-1/n} M = \lambda^{-1} \det M = 1$ ,  $\lambda^{-1/n} M \in \text{SL}_n \mathbb{C}$ .

Conclusion:  $G = HK$ .

$C_n := H \cap K = \{\lambda 1 : \lambda^n = 1\} = \{e^{2\pi i k/n} 1 : k = 0, \dots, n-1\}$  (Note:  $C_n \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ ). Second isomorphism  $\implies \text{PGL}_n \mathbb{C} \cong \text{SL}_n \mathbb{C} / C_n$ . In Lie theory, this kind of calculation can be quite useful.

# Group actions

week 5

## 6.1 Group actions

### 6.1.1 Two group actions

**Example:**  $S_n$

Permutation  $S_n$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  form a group.

This means that we can multiply permutations together. e.g.,

$$(12)(34)(24) = (1234)$$

However, that's not all there is to permutations: we can also plug in numbers from  $1, \dots, n$

$$((12)(34))(3) = 4$$

We say that  $S_n$  **acts** on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$

**Example:**  $GL_n \mathbb{C}$

Similarly, for  $GL_n \mathbb{C}$ , we can do more than multiply matrices: We can also multiply matrices and vectors. Given  $A \in GL_n \mathbb{C}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , can take  $A \cdot v \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Say that  $GL_n \mathbb{C}$  **acts** on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

Clearly the notion of actions is important to groups.

#### left action

Let  $G$  be a group. A **(left) action** of  $G$  on a set  $X$  is a function  $\cdot : G \times X \rightarrow X$  such that

- (a)  $e \cdot x = x$  for all  $x \in X$ , and
- (b)  $g \cdot (h \cdot x) = (gh) \cdot x$  for all  $g, h \in G, x \in X$ .

**Example:**

$S_n$  acts on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ .

$\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  acts on  $\mathbb{K}^n$  (prove by the associativity of matrix multiplication).

Let  $X$  be any set,  $G$  any group. We can define an action of  $G$  on  $X$  by  $g \cdot x = x$  for all  $g \in G, x \in X$ . This is called the **trivial action** of  $G$  on  $X$ .

**Proof:**

(a) clear,  $g \cdot (h \cdot x) = g \cdot x = x = (gh) \cdot x$ . □

**Proposition 6.1**

Let  $X$  be a set. The group  $S_X$  (of invertible functions  $X \rightarrow X$  under composition  $\circ$ ) acts on  $X$  via  $f \cdot x = f(x)$ .

**Proof:**

The identity 1 in  $S_X$  is the identity function, so  $1 \cdot x = 1(x) = x$ . If  $f, g \in S_X$ , then  $(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = g \cdot (g \cdot x)$ . □

**Note**

We typically stick with the notation  $f(x)$ , rather than  $f \cdot x$ . Recall  $S_n = S_{\{1, \dots, n\}}$ .

**Lemma 6.2**

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , and  $H \leq G$ , then  $H$  acts on  $G$  by the restricted action  $X \times X \rightarrow X : (h, x) \mapsto h \cdot x$ .

**Proof:**

Immediate. □

Alternative way to show  $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  acts on  $\mathbb{K}^n$ : observe  $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K} \leq S_{\mathbb{K}^n}$ .

### 6.1.2 Invariant subsets

However, note that groups aren't tied to a particular action:

**Example:**

$D_{2n}$  was defined as subgroup of  $\text{GL}_2 \mathbb{R}$ , so it acts on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

However,  $D_{2n}$  also acts on the vertices  $v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}$  of the  $n$ -gon.

In fact, this action determines elements of  $D_{2n}$ :

$$s^i \text{ sends } v_0 \text{ to } v_i, v_1 \text{ to } v_{i+1} \quad s^i r \text{ sends } v_0 \text{ to } v_i, v_1 \text{ to } v_{i-1}$$

This dihedral group action on the vertices of the  $n$ -gon is an instance of the following pattern:

### invariant under the action of $G$

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , a subset  $Y \subseteq X$  is **invariant under the action of  $G$**  if  $g \cdot y \in Y$  for all  $g \in G, y \in Y$ .

### Lemma 6.3

If  $G$  acts on  $X$  and  $Y$  is an invariant subset, then  $G$  acts on  $Y$  via  $G \times Y \rightarrow Y : (g, y) \mapsto g \cdot y$ .

### Example:

$\{0\}$  is an invariant subset of  $\mathbb{K}^n$  under the action of  $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$ . In this case, the action of  $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  on  $\{0\}$  is trivial.

## 6.1.3 Actions on functions

### Proposition 6.4

Suppose  $G$  acts on  $X$  and  $Y$ , and let  $\text{Fun}(X, Y)$  denote the set of functions from  $X$  to  $Y$ . If  $g \in G$  and  $f \in \text{Fun}(X, Y)$ , let  $g \cdot f$  be the function

$$g \cdot f : X \rightarrow Y : x \mapsto g \cdot f(g^{-1} \cdot x)$$

Then  $G \times \text{Fun}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(X, Y) : (g, f) \mapsto g \cdot f$  is a left action of  $G$  on  $\text{Fun}(X, Y)$ .

### Proof:

Exercise. □

Often we apply this function with the trivial action on  $Y$ , so the action looks like  $g \cdot f(x) = f(g^{-1} \cdot x)$ .

## 6.1.4 Actions on subsets

### Proposition 6.5

Suppose  $G$  acts on  $X$ . Let  $2^X$  denote the subsets of  $X$ . Then  $g \cdot S = \{g \cdot s : s \in S\}$  defines an action of  $G$  on  $2^X$ .

### Proof:

$$e \cdot S = \{e \cdot s : s \in S\} = \{s : s \in S\} = S.$$

For all  $g, h \in G, S = 2^X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} g \cdot (h \cdot S) &= g \cdot \{h \cdot s : s \in S\} = \{g \cdot (h \cdot s) : s \in S\} \\ &= \{gh \cdot s : s \in S\} = gh \cdot S \end{aligned}$$

□

Alternative proof:  $2^X$  is the set of functions  $X \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ . Can realize action of  $G$  on  $2^X$  by taking action on functions with trivial action on  $\{0, 1\}$ .



### 6.1.5 Left regular action

*Does every group act on some set?*

#### Lemma 6.6

If  $G$  is a group, then the multiplication map  $\cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G$  is a left action of  $G$  on  $G$ .

#### Proof:

Immediate from group definition.  $\square$

So every group acts on itself by left multiplication. This action is called the **left regular action of  $G$  on  $G$** .

#### Lemma 6.7

If  $H \leq G$ , then  $G$  acts on  $G/H$  by  $g \cdot (kH) = gkH$ .

#### Proof:

We can prove this by combining previous lemmas and propositions.

First we know  $G$  acts on itself by the left regular action. From Proposition 6.5, we know  $G$  acts on  $2^G$  by the setwise product. Second, the elements of  $G/H$  are cosets, thus  $G/H \subseteq 2^G$ . Now setwise product gives us an action of  $G$  on  $2^G$ . When we take the setwise product  $g$  with coset  $kH$ , we get another coset. So  $G/H$  is an invariant subset of  $2^G$  under the induced subset product action from the left regular action.  $\square$

#### Remark:

Since  $G/\{e\} = G$ , this generalizes the left regular action.

### 6.1.6 Right multiplication

*What about right multiplication?*

Let  $G$  be a group, where we denote the product of  $g$  and  $h$  by  $gh$  (then we free  $\cdot$  symbol and can redefine later). For  $g, k \in G$ , define  $g \cdot k = kg$  (right multiplication). Then we might ask: does this define a left action of  $G$  on  $G$  in the same way that left multiplication did?

If  $g, h, k \in G$  ( $k$  is the element being acted on), then  $g \cdot (h \cdot k) = g \cdot kh = khg$ , whereas  $gh \cdot k = kgh$ , which is not equal to  $khg$  if  $hg \neq gh$ . So right multiplication does not define a left action in general.

*Can we fix this?*

### right action

Let  $G$  be a group. A **(right) action** of  $G$  on a set  $X$  is a function  $\cdot : X \times G \rightarrow X$  such that

- (a)  $x \cdot e = x$  for all  $x \in X$ , and
- (b)  $(x \cdot g) \cdot h = x \cdot (gh)$  for all  $g, h \in G, x \in X$ .

#### Example:

There is a right action of  $G$  on itself by right multiplication. This is called the **right regular action of  $G$  on  $G$** . More generally, if  $H \leq G$  then  $G$  acts on  $H \backslash G$ .

If  $G$  is a group and  $X$  is a set, then there is a trivial right action of  $G$  on  $X$  defined by  $x \cdot g = x$  for all  $g \in G, x \in X$ .

If there is a right action of  $G$  on  $X$ , and  $Y$  is any set, then  $(g \cdot f)(x) = f(x \cdot g)$  defines a left action of  $G$  on  $\text{Fun}(X, Y)$ .

### Proposition 6.8

If  $\cdot$  is a right action of  $G$  on  $X$ , then  $g \cdot x = x \cdot g^{-1}$  defines a left action of  $G$  on  $X$ .

#### Proof:

$e \cdot x = x \cdot e$ , and if  $g, h \in G, x \in X$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} g \cdot (h \cdot x) &= g \cdot (x \cdot h^{-1}) = (x \cdot h^{-1}) \cdot g^{-1} \\ &= x \cdot h^{-1}g^{-1} = x \cdot (gh)^{-1} = gh \cdot x \end{aligned}$$

□

Combined with the last example previously, this proposition explains why, if  $\cdot$  is a left action of  $G$  on  $X$ , we define the left action of  $G$  on  $\text{Fun}(X, Y)$  by setting  $(g \cdot f)(x) = f(g^{-1} \cdot x)$ .

## 6.2 Permutation representations

### Lemma 6.9

If  $G$  has a left action on a set  $X$ , and  $g \in G$ , let  $\ell_g : X \rightarrow X$  be defined by  $\ell_g(x) = g \cdot x$ . Then:

- (a)  $\ell_g \circ \ell_h = \ell_{gh}$  for all  $g, h \in G$ .
- (b)  $\ell_e = 1$ , the identity function.
- (c)  $\ell_g$  is a bijection for all  $g \in G$ .

**Proof:**

$$\ell_g \circ \ell_h(x) = g \cdot (h \cdot x) = gh \cdot x = \ell_{gh}(x).$$

$$\text{Also, } \ell_e(x) = e \cdot x = x.$$

$$\text{Finally, } \ell_g \circ \ell_{g^{-1}} = \ell_e = 1 = \ell_{g^{-1}} \circ \ell_g \implies \ell_g \text{ is invertible.}$$

□

### Corollary 6.10

Every left action of  $G$  on  $X$  gives a homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_X : g \mapsto \ell_g$  with  $\phi(g)(x) = g \cdot x$ .

### permutation representation

If  $X$  is a set, a **permutation representation** of  $G$  on  $X$  is a homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_X$ .

If  $|X| = n$ , then  $S_X \cong S_n$ .

So action on finite set  $X$  with  $|X| = n$  gives homomorphism to  $S_n$ .

**Example:**  $D_{2n}$

$D_{2n}$  acts on  $n$  vertices of  $n$ -gon, so there is a homomorphism  $D_{2n} \rightarrow S_n$ .

Let  $X = \{v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}\}$  be vertices of  $n$ -gon.

Identify  $X$  with  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  by mapping  $v_i \mapsto i + 1$  so we can write elements of  $S_X$  as elements of  $S_n$ .

Let  $\phi : D_{2n} \rightarrow S_n$  be permutation representation given by action  $D_{2n}$  on  $X$

What is  $\phi(s)$ ?

$s \cdot v_0 = v_1, s \cdot v_1 = v_2, \dots, s \cdot v_{n-1} = v_0$ . So

$$\phi(s) = (1 \ 2 \ 3 \ \dots \ n)$$

What is  $\phi(r)$ ?

$r \cdot v_0 = v_0, r \cdot v_1 = v_{n-1}, \dots, r \cdot v_i = v_{n-i}$ . So

$$\phi(r) = \begin{cases} (2 \ n)(3 \ n-1) \dots \left(\frac{n+1}{2} \ \frac{n+3}{2}\right) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ (2 \ n)(3 \ n-1) \dots \left(\frac{n}{2} \ \frac{n}{2} + 2\right) & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

Transposition is another name for the two cycle.

In general,  $\phi(s^i r^j) = \phi(s)^i \phi(r)^j$ .

**Theorem 6.11**

- (a) If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , then there is a homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_X$  defined by  $\phi(g)(x) = g \cdot x$ .
- (b) If  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_X$  is a homomorphism, then  $g \cdot x = \phi(g)(x)$  defines a group action of  $G$  on  $X$ .

In other words, group actions  $\equiv$  permutation representations.

Because of this theorem, we treat the two as interchangeable.

**Proof:**

- (a) Already done.
- (b)  $e \cdot x = \phi(e)(x) = 1(x) = x$  for all  $x \in X$ .

If  $g, h \in G, x \in X$ , then

$$g \cdot (h \cdot x) = \phi(g)(\phi(h)(x)) = (\phi(g) \circ \phi(h))(x) = \phi(gh)(x)$$

□

### 6.3 Cayley's theorem

#### faithful

Let  $G$  act on a set  $X$ , and let  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_X$  be the corresponding permutation representation. The **kernel** of the action is  $\ker \phi$ , and the action is **faithful** if  $\ker \phi = \{e\}$ .

**Lemma 6.12**

An action of  $G$  on  $X$  is faithful if and only if for every  $g \in G, g \neq e$ , there is  $x \in X$  such that  $g \cdot x \neq x$ .

**Proof:**

$\ell_g \neq 1$  if and only if there is  $x \in X$  such that  $g \cdot x = \ell(g)(x) \neq x$ .

□

**Lemma 6.13**

An action of  $G$  on  $X$  is faithful if and only if for every  $g \in G, g \neq e$ , there is  $x \in X$  such that  $g \cdot x \neq x$ .

**Example:**

$S_X$  acts faithfully on  $X$ .

If  $A \cdot e_i = e_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , then  $A = 1$ , so action of  $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  on  $\mathbb{K}^n$  is faithful.

$D_{2n}$  acts faithfully on vertices of the  $n$ -gon.

Trivial action is not faithful.

*Does every group act faithfully on some set?*

#### Theorem 6.14: Cayley's theorem

The left regular action of  $G$  on  $G$  is faithful.

Consequently,  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_G$ . In particular, if  $|G| = n < +\infty$ , then  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

#### Proof:

If  $g \in G, g \neq e$ , then  $g \cdot e = g \neq e$ . So left regular action is faithful.

Hence permutation representation  $\phi : G \rightarrow S_G$  is injective. So  $G$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Im } \phi \leq S_G$  (easy case of first isomorphism theorem). If  $|G| = n < +\infty$ , then  $S_G \cong S_n$ .  $\square$

Homomorphism  $G \rightarrow S_G$  given by this theorem is called **left regular representation** of  $G$ .

#### Example: $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

Let  $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \{[0], [1]\}$

Cayley's theorem:  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_2$

$[0] + [0] = [0], [0] + [1] = [1]$ , so  $[0] \mapsto e$  in  $S_2$

$[1] + [0] = [1], [1] + [1] = [0]$ , so  $[1] \mapsto (1\ 2)$  in  $S_2$ .

The left regular representation may not be the most efficient permutation representation.

#### Example: $D_6$

$D_6$  has order 6, so is isomorphic to subgroup of  $S_6$

But  $D_6$  acts faithfully on vertices of 3-gon, so there is injective homomorphism  $D_6 \rightarrow S_3$ , since  $|D_6| = |S_3| = 6$ , this is an isomorphism.

But  $|S_6| = 6! \gg 6$ .

#### Remark:

There is actually a sense in which the left regular representation is the least efficient representation of the group. We don't have the tools to fill what we mean by that. The tools will be explored in the representation theory of finite groups.

## 6.4 Orbits and stabilizers

### orbit

Let  $G$  act on  $X$ . The  $G$ -**orbit** of  $x$  is  $\mathcal{O}_x = \{g \cdot x : g \in G\}$ . A subset  $\mathcal{O} \subseteq X$  is an **orbit** if  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_x$  for some  $x \in X$ . A group action is **transitive** if  $\mathcal{O}_x = X$  for some  $x \in X$ .

#### Example: left multiplication

Let  $H \leq G$  act on  $G$  by left multiplication. The orbit of  $g \in G$  is  $\mathcal{O}_g = Hg$ , a right coset.

If we take  $H = G$ , then  $\mathcal{O}_g = G$ , then transitive. Since  $Hg$  is a proper subset of  $G$  if  $H < G$ ,  $G$  is not transitive unless  $H = G$ .

If  $H$  is non-trivial,  $Hg = Hg'$  for some  $g \neq g'$ . Thus it's possible to have  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_x = \mathcal{O}_{x'}$  for  $x \neq x'$ . That's part of why we have two different terms:  $\mathcal{O}$  and  $\mathcal{O}_x$ .

We can also consider right multiplication, then orbit is a left coset.

#### Example: $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$

Consider the action of  $\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  on  $\mathbb{K}^n$ , Then

$$\mathcal{O}_v = \begin{cases} \{0\} & v = 0 \\ \{w \in \mathbb{K}^n : w \neq 0\} & v \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

The second orbit can be verified by the basis extension theorem. So this action is transitive, and there are two orbits.

#### Example: $S_X$

If  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n$ , then can find  $\pi \in S_n$  such that  $\pi(i) = j$ . (for instance,  $\pi = (i \ j)$ ). So  $\mathcal{O}_i = \{1, \dots, n\}$  for all  $i$ .

Conclusion: action of  $S_n$  on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  is transitive, has one orbit.

More generally, action of  $S_X$  on  $X$  is transitive, has one orbit.

Suppose  $\sigma \in S_n$ . What are the orbits of  $\langle \sigma \rangle$  on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ ? E.g.  $\sigma = (1 \ 3 \ 7)(2 \ 6)(4 \ 8) \in S_8$ .

$\mathcal{O}_1 = \mathcal{O}_3 = \mathcal{O}_7 = \{1, 3, 7\}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_2 = \mathcal{O}_6 = \{2, 6\}$ . Other orbits are  $\{4, 8\}$ ,  $\{5\}$ .

In general, if  $\sigma = (i_{11} \ \dots \ i_{1k_1})(i_{21} \ \dots \ i_{2k_2}) \dots (i_{m1} \ \dots \ i_{mk_m})$  (with 1-cycles included), orbits are  $\{i_{j1}, \dots, i_{jk_j}\}$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$

Note: in all these examples, orbits partition  $X$ .

Recall: partitions correspond to equivalence relations.

### $\sim_G$

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , say that  $x \sim_G y$  if there is  $g \in G$  s.t.  $g \cdot x = y$ .

**Lemma 6.15**

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , then  $\sim_G$  is an equivalence relation on  $X$ .

**Proof:**

Since  $e \cdot x = x$ ,  $x \sim_G x$  for all  $x \in X$ .

If  $g \cdot x = y$ , then multiply both sides by  $g^{-1}$ , then  $g^{-1} \cdot y = x$ , so  $x \sim_G y \implies y \sim_G x$ .

Finally, if  $g \cdot x = y$ , and  $h \cdot y = z$ , then  $hg \cdot x = z$ , so  $x \sim_G y$  and  $y \sim_G z \implies x \sim_G z$ .  $\square$

If  $x \in X$ , then equivalence class  $[x]_{\sim_G}$  of  $x$  is

$$\{y \in X : x \sim_G y\} = \{y \in X : y = g \cdot x, \text{ for some } g \in G\} = \mathcal{O}_x$$

Conclusion: equivalence classes of  $\sim_G$  are orbits of  $G$  acting on  $X$ .

**Proposition 6.16**

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , then orbits of  $G$  form a partition of  $X$ . In particular, the action is transitive if and only if there is one orbit.

**set of representatives for  $\sim$** 

Let  $\sim$  be an equivalence relation on a set  $X$ . A subset  $S \subseteq X$  is said to be a **set of representatives for  $\sim$**  if each equivalence class of  $\sim$  contains exactly one element of  $S$ .

It's always possible to pick a set of representatives.

**Corollary 6.17**

Suppose  $G$  acts on a set  $X$ , and let  $S$  be a set of representatives for  $\sim_G$ . Then

$$|X| = \sum_{x \in S} |\mathcal{O}_x|$$

**Example:**

In the previous  $S_X$  example, we can pick 1, 2, 4, 5, and

$$|X| = 8 = |\mathcal{O}_1| + |\mathcal{O}_2| + |\mathcal{O}_4| + |\mathcal{O}_5|$$

What's  $|\mathcal{O}_x|$ ?

To determine  $|\mathcal{O}_x|$ , we can use the function  $G \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_x : g \mapsto g \cdot x$ . It's clearly onto, but it might have  $g \cdot x = h \cdot x$  when  $g \neq h$ .

**stabilizer of  $x$** 

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , and  $x \in X$ , the **stabilizer of  $x$**  is  $G_x := \{g \in G : g \cdot x = x\}$ .

**Proposition 6.18**

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ ,  $x \in X$ , then  $G_x$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

**Proof:**

First,  $e \in G_x$ .

Second, if  $g, h \in G_x$ , then  $gh \cdot x = g \cdot (h \cdot x) = g \cdot x = x \implies gh \in G_x$ .

Third, if  $g \in G_x$ , then  $g^{-1} \cdot x = g^{-1} \cdot (g \cdot x) = e \cdot x = x \implies g^{-1} \in G_x$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 6.19: Orbit-stabilizer theorem**

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , and  $x \in X$ , then there is a bijection  $G/G_x \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_x : gG_x \mapsto g \cdot x$ .

**Proof:**

Well-defined: if  $gG_x = hG_x$ , then  $g^{-1}h \in G_x$ . So  $g^{-1}h \cdot x = x \implies h \cdot x = g \cdot x$ .

Injective: if  $g \cdot x = h \cdot x$ , then  $g^{-1}h \cdot x = x$ , so  $g^{-1}h \in G_x \implies gG_x = hG_x$ .

Surjective: if  $y \in \mathcal{O}_x$ , then  $y = g \cdot x$  by definition.  $\square$

**Corollary 6.20**

If  $G$  acts on  $X$  and  $x \in X$ , then  $|\mathcal{O}_x| = [G : G_x]$ .

**Example:**  $S_n$

Let  $G = S_n, X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ .

We know action of  $G$  on  $X$  is transitive, so  $\mathcal{O}_i = X$ , any  $i$ .

So we have  $n = |\mathcal{O}_i| = [G : G_i] = \frac{|G|}{|G_i|} = \frac{n!}{|G_i|}$ .

It follows that  $|G_i| = (n-1)!$ , any  $i$

Stabilizer of  $i$  is  $G_i = \{\pi \in S_n : \pi(i) = i\}$ ,

For example, for  $n = 4$ ,  $G_1 = \{e, (2\ 3), (2\ 4), (3\ 4), (2\ 3\ 4), (2\ 4\ 3)\}$ .

In general,  $G_i \cong S_{n-1}$ , we can see  $|G_i| = (n-1)!$  directly.

**Example:**  $G/H$

Recall that action of  $G$  on  $G/H$  is  $g \cdot kH = gkH$  (i.e., the usual set multiplication)

**Proposition 6.21**

Suppose  $H \leq G$ . Then the left multiplication action of  $G$  on  $G/H$  is transitive, and  $G_{eH} = H$ .



**Proof:**

If  $gH \in G/H$ , then  $gH = g \cdot eH$ , so  $\mathcal{O}_{eH} = G/H$ .

$$g \cdot eH = eH \iff gH = H \iff g \in H. \quad \square$$

In this case, orbit-stabilizer theorem states that  $\mathcal{O}_{eH} = G/H$  is in bijection with  $G/H$  (tautology)

### 6.4.1 Kernel versus stabilizer

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , then kernel of the action is  $\{g \in G : g \cdot x = x \quad \forall x\}$  where as  $G_x = \{g \in G : g \cdot x = x\}$ , i.e., with stabilizer  $x$  is fixed. Consequently, if  $H$  is kernel of action, then  $H \leq G_x$  for all  $x \in X$ .

#### Proposition 6.22

If  $G$  acts on  $X$ , then the kernel of the action is  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G_x$ , the intersection of the stabilizers.

**Proof:**

$g$  is in the kernel if and only if  $g \in G_x$  for all  $x \in X$ .  $\square$

#### Theorem 6.23

If  $G$  is finite and  $H \leq G$  has index  $[G : H] = p$ , where  $p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ , then  $H \trianglelefteq G$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $K$  be kernel of action of  $G$  on  $G/H$ . By Proposition 6.22,  $K \leq H = G_{eH}$ . Let  $k = [H : K] = \frac{|H|}{|K|}$ . Now  $[G : K] = \frac{|G|}{|K|} = \frac{|G|}{|H|} \cdot \frac{|H|}{|K|} = p \cdot k$ .

By first isomorphism theorem,  $G/K$  is isomorphic to subgroup of  $S_p$ . So  $|G/K| = kp \mid |S_p| = p! \implies k \mid (p-1)!$ .

But we also have  $k \mid |G|$ . Since  $p$  is smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ , must have  $k = 1 \implies |H| = |K| \implies H = K$ .  $\square$

## 6.5 Conjugation

Recall that left multiplication defines a left action of  $G$  on  $G$ . It turns out that there's another natural left action:

#### Lemma 6.24

$G \times G \rightarrow G : (g, k) \mapsto gkg^{-1}$  defines an action of  $G$  on  $G$ .

**Remark:**

This action is called the **conjugation action of  $G$  on  $G$** .

To avoid confusion with the left multiplication action in this section, we'll denote the

conjugation action by  $\bullet$ , so  $g \bullet k = gkg^{-1}$ .

In practice, there is no convention on the meaning of  $\cdot$  and  $\bullet$ , so we'll have to say which one you are using each time.

**Proof:**

If  $k \in G$ , then  $e \bullet k = eke = k$ .

If  $g, h \in G, k \in G$ , then

$$g \bullet (h \bullet k) = g \bullet hkh^{-1} = ghkh^{-1}g^{-1} = (gh)k(gh)^{-1} = gh \bullet k$$

□

### conjugacy class

The orbit of  $k \in G$  under the conjugation action is called **conjugacy class** of  $k$ . We'll denote it by  $\text{Conj}_G(k)$ .

### centralizer of $k$ in $G$

The stabilizer of  $k \in G$  is called **centralizer of  $k$  in  $G$** , and is denoted by  $C_G(k)$ .

By definition  $\text{Conj}_G(k) = \{gkg^{-1} : g \in G\}$ .

$C_G(k) = \{g \in G : gkg^{-1} = k\} = \{g \in G : gk = kg\}$ , i.e., the centralizer is the set of elements in  $G$  commute with  $k$ .

By the orbit stabilizer theorem,  $|\text{Conj}_G(k)| = [G : C_G(k)]$

**Example:**

$\text{Conj}(e) = \{geg^{-1} : g \in G\} = \{e\}$  and  $C_G(e) = G$ .

The conjugation action of  $G$  on  $G$  induces an action of  $G$  on  $2^G$

If  $g \in G, S \subseteq G$ , then

$$g \bullet S = \{g \bullet h : h \in S\} = \{ghg^{-1} : h \in S\} = gSg^{-1}$$

So the stabilizer of  $S$  is  $\{g \in G : gSg^{-1} = S\} =: N_G(S)$ , where  $N_G(S)$  is the normalizer of  $S$  in  $G$ .

**Example: matrices**

Important instances of the conjugation action:  $G = \text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$

Actually, if  $A, B$  are  $n \times n$  matrices,  $A$  invertible, then  $ABA^{-1}$  makes sense even if  $B$  is not invertible

**Exercise**

$\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  acts on  $M_n \mathbb{K}$  by conjugation, where  $M_n \mathbb{K}$  is the set of all  $n \times n$  matrices.

Recall: two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  are **similar** if there is  $C \in \text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  such that  $CAC^{-1} = B$ . This is the equivalence  $\sim_{\text{GL}_n \mathbb{K}}$ .

Orbits of conjugation action of  $\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K}$  on  $M_n \mathbb{K}$  are called **similarity classes**.

Matrix  $A$  is **diagonalizable** if it is similar to a diagonal matrix.

When  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$ , every similarity class contains exactly one matrix in Jordan normal form, matrices in Jordan normal form give a set of representatives for  $\sum_{\mathrm{GL}_n \mathbb{K}}$ .

### 6.5.1 Class equation

Using standard fact about orbits,

$$|G| = \sum_{g \in S} |\mathrm{Conj}(g)| = \sum_{g \in S} [G : C_G(g)]$$

where  $S$  is set of representatives for conjugacy classes.

#### Lemma 6.25

$$|\mathrm{Conj}(k)| = 1 \iff C_G(k) = G \iff k \in Z(G)$$

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathrm{Conj}(k)| \text{ has size one} &\iff gkg^{-1} = k \text{ for all } g \in G \\ &\iff C_G(k) = G \iff k \in Z(G) \end{aligned}$$

□

#### Theorem 6.26: Class equation

If  $G$  is a finite group, then  $|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{g \in T} |\mathrm{Conj}(g)|$ , where  $T$  is a set of representatives for conjugacy classes not contained in the center.

**Proof:**

Immediate.

□

#### Theorem 6.27: Cauchy's theorem

If  $G$  is a finite group and  $p$  is a prime dividing  $|G|$ , then  $G$  contains an element of order  $p$ .

**Proof:**

Let  $|G| = pm$ . Note: theorem is true if  $G$  is cyclic.

First assume  $G$  is *abelian*. Proof by induction on  $m$ .

Base case: if  $m = 1$ , then  $G$  is cyclic, so done.

Inductive step: Pick  $a \in G$ ,  $a \neq e$ . Can assume  $|a| < |G|$  (since otherwise  $G$  is cyclic)

If  $p \mid |a|$ , then apply induction to get element  $b \in \langle a \rangle$  with  $|b| = p$ .

Otherwise assume  $p \nmid |a|$ . Since  $G$  abelian,  $N = \langle a \rangle \trianglelefteq G$ .  $|G/N| = |G|/|N| < |G|$ . Since  $p \mid |G|$ ,  $p \nmid |N|$ , then  $p \mid |G/N|$  by prime factorization of  $|G|$ . Then prove by induction,  $G/N$  has element  $gN$  of order  $p$ .

Let  $n = |g|$ . Since  $g^n = 1$ , then  $q(g)^n = (gN)^n = 1$  where  $q$  is quotient map. Thus  $p \mid n$ .

If  $G = \langle g \rangle$ , then done, otherwise apply induction to  $\langle g \rangle$ .

Now prove for general case (nonabelian  $G$ ): Use induction on  $|G|$  again.

Recall class equation:  $|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{g \in T} |\text{Conj}(g)|$ .

If  $p \nmid |\text{Conj}(g)| = |G|/|C_G(g)|$  for some  $g \in T$ , then  $p \mid |C_G(g)|$ . Since  $g \notin Z(G)$ ,  $|\text{Conj}(g)| > 1$ , then  $|C_G(g)| < |G|$ . By induction,  $C_G(g)$  contains element of order  $p$ .

If  $p \mid |\text{Conj}(g)|$  for all  $g \in T$ , then  $p \mid |Z(G)|$ .  $Z(G)$  is abelian group, so by abelian case,  $Z(G)$  contains element of order  $p$ .  $\square$

## 6.5.2 p-groups

### p-group

Let  $p$  be prime. A group  $G$  is a **p-group** if  $|G| = p^k$  for some  $k \geq 1$ .

### Theorem 6.28

If  $G$  is a  $p$ -group, then  $Z(G) \neq \{e\}$ .

**Proof:**

$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{g \in T} [G : C_G(g)]$ . We know that  $[G : C_G(g)] \mid |G|$ . If  $g \notin Z(G)$  then  $[G : C_G(g)] > 1 \implies [G : C_G(g)] = p^l$  for  $1 < l \leq k \implies p \mid [G : C_G(g)]$ . Thus  $p \mid |Z(G)| \implies |Z(G)| \geq p \implies Z(G) \neq \{e\}$ .  $\square$

## 6.6 Conjugation in permutation groups

Suppose  $\pi\sigma \in S_n$ . What is  $\pi\sigma\pi^{-1}$ ?

### Lemma 6.29

If  $\sigma(i) = j$ , then  $(\pi\sigma\pi^{-1})(\pi(i)) = \pi(j)$ .

### Corollary 6.30

If  $\sigma = (i_{11} \cdots i_{1k_1})(i_{21} \cdots i_{2k_2}) \cdots (i_{m1} \cdots i_{mk_m})$ , then  $\pi\sigma\pi^{-1} = (\pi(i_{11}) \cdots \pi(i_{1k_1})) \cdots (\pi(i_{m1}) \cdots \pi(i_{mk_m}))$

**Example:**  $S_{10}$

Let  $\sigma = (1\ 3)(2\ 4\ 8\ 10)(5\ 7\ 6)(9)$ ,  $\pi = (1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ 6\ 7\ 8\ 9\ 10)$ , then  $\pi\sigma\pi^{-1} = (2\ 4)(3)(5\ 9\ 1)(6\ 8\ 7)(10) = (1\ 5\ 9)(2\ 4)(3)(6\ 8\ 7)(10)$

Now given  $\sigma$ , what can we say about the conjugacy class  $\text{Conj}(\sigma) = \{\pi\sigma\pi^{-1} : \pi \in S_n\}$ ?

### cycle type

For  $n \geq 1$ , let  $[n] := \{1, \dots, n\}$ . If  $\sigma \in S_n$ , the **cycle type** of  $\sigma$  is the function  $\lambda : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $\lambda(i)$  is the number of cycles in the disjoint cycle representation of  $\sigma$  of length  $i$ .

#### Example: $S_{10}$

Let  $\sigma = (1\ 3)(2)(4\ 8\ 10)(5\ 7\ 6)(9)$ .

Then  $\sigma$  has cycle type  $\lambda$  with  $\lambda(1) = 2, \lambda(2) = 1, \lambda(3) = 2$ , and  $\lambda(i) = 0$  for  $4 \leq i \leq 10$ .

Note that if  $\lambda$  is a cycle type, then  $\sum_{i=1}^n i\lambda(i) = n$ .

### Proposition 6.31

If  $\sigma \in S_n$  has cycle type  $\lambda$ , then

$$\text{Conj}(\sigma) = \{\tau \in S_n : \tau \text{ has cycle type } \lambda\} =: \text{Conj}(\lambda)$$

#### Proof:

By Corollary 6.30,  $\pi\sigma\pi^{-1}$  has the same cycle type as  $\sigma$ .

Suppose  $\tau$  has the same cycle type as  $\sigma$ .

Let  $\sigma = (i_{11} \ \dots \ i_{1k_1})(i_{21} \ \dots \ i_{2k_2}) \dots (i_{m1} \ \dots \ i_{mk_m})$ .

By ordering cycles, can write  $\tau$  as

$\tau = (j_{11} \ \dots \ j_{1k_1})(j_{21} \ \dots \ j_{2k_2}) \dots (j_{m1} \ \dots \ j_{mk_m})$ .

Let  $\pi$  be the permutation with  $\pi(i_{ab}) = j_{ab}$ . Then  $\pi\sigma\pi^{-1} = \tau$ , so  $\tau \in \text{Conj}(\sigma)$ . □

How many conjugacy classes are there?

### partition of $n$

A **partition of  $n$**  is a tuple  $\lambda$  of natural numbers  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$  such that

- $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k$ , and
- $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_k = n$ .

#### Example:

The partitions of 4 are  $(4), (3, 1), (2, 2), (2, 1, 1)$ , and  $(1, 1, 1, 1)$ .

#### Remark:

To avoid having to repeat numbers, we can write

$$\underbrace{a, a, \dots, a}_{k \text{ times}}$$

as  $a^k$ . So for instance,  $(2, 1, 1) = (2^1, 1^2), (1, 1, 1, 1) = (1^4)$ .

**Lemma 6.32**

There is a bijection between partitions of  $n$ , and functions  $\lambda : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n i\lambda(i) = n$ .

**Proof:**

Map  $\lambda$  to  $(n^{\lambda(n)}, (n-1)^{\lambda(n-1)}, \dots, 2^{\lambda(2)}, 1^{\lambda(1)})$ . □

**Corollary 6.33**

The number of conjugacy classes in  $S_n$  is  $p(n)$ .

where  $p(n)$  = number of partitions of  $n = e^{\pi\sqrt{2n/3}} \ll n! \approx n^n$ .  $|S_n| = n!$ .

**Proof:**

$\lambda : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  is the cycle type of a permutation if and only if  $\sum_i i\lambda(i) = n$ . □

### 6.6.1 Stabilizer of an element

Suppose  $\sigma = (1 \ 2 \ \dots \ n) \in S_n$ . Then what is  $C_{S_n}(\sigma) = \{\pi \in S_n : \pi\sigma\pi^{-1} = \sigma\}$ ? If  $\pi(1) = i$ , then we must have  $\pi(2) = i+1, \pi(3) = i+2$ , etc. So  $\pi$  is completely determined by  $\pi(1)$ .

What about  $\sigma = (1 \ 2)(3 \ 4)$ ? Could have  $\pi = e, (1 \ 2), (3 \ 4), (1 \ 2)(3 \ 4)$  or  $\pi = (1 \ 3)(2 \ 4), (1 \ 3 \ 2 \ 4), (1 \ 4 \ 2 \ 3), (1 \ 4)(2 \ 3)$ . i.e., we can switch cycles of the same length. In this case,  $\pi$  is determined by  $\pi(1)$  and  $\pi(3)$ .

**Proposition 6.34**

Let  $\sigma = (i_{11} \ \dots \ i_{1k_1})(i_{21} \ \dots \ i_{2k_2}) \dots (i_{m1} \ \dots \ i_{mk_m})$  be a permutation of cycle type  $\lambda$ . If  $\pi \in C_{S_n}(\sigma)$ , then  $\pi$  is completely determined by  $\pi(i_{11}), \pi(i_{21}), \dots, \pi(i_{m1})$ . Consequently,

$$|C_{S_n}(\sigma)| = \prod_{i=1}^n i^{\lambda_i} \lambda_i!$$

**Proof:**

For the first part, use  $\sigma(i) = j \implies \pi\sigma\pi^{-1}(\sigma(i)) = \pi(j)$ .

Enumeration: note that  $\pi(i_{a1})$  must go to a cycle of length  $k = k_a$  so  $\pi$  permutes the cycles of length  $k$ , leading to  $\lambda_k!$  choices.

Once we know what cycle  $i_{a1}$  is going to, there are  $k$  choices for where in the cycle it can go.

$\lambda_k$  such choices gives a factor of  $k^{\lambda_k}$ . □

**Corollary 6.35**

If  $\lambda : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{n \geq 0}$  with  $\sum_i i\lambda(i) = n$ , then

$$|\text{Conj}(\lambda)| = \frac{n!}{\prod_i i^{\lambda_i} \lambda_i!}$$

Since the orbits partition  $S_n$ , we get the nice combinatorial identity

$$n! = \sum_{\lambda} \frac{n!}{\prod_i i^{\lambda_i} \lambda_i!}$$

where the sum is over functions  $\lambda : [n] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  with  $\sum_i i\lambda(i) = n$ . (If we want to, we can think of the sum as being over partitions.)

# Classification of groups

week 6

Classification problem here is to identify all groups up to isomorphism. Also, we can replace the groups here with any algebraic structure. In the next part of this course, we will do classification on rings. Classification is really one of the *big questions* in modern mathematics. By big questions, we mean *where does the gravity come from* in physics, or *do we have free wills* in philosophy. So what we have so far is a group of orders strictly less than 10,

Order	Known groups
1	Trivial group
2	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
3	$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$
4	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$
5	$\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$
6	$\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}, D_6 = S_3, ??$
7	$\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$
8	$\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, D_8, ??$
9	$\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}, (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$

Table 7.1: Groups of small order

Recall we previously mentioned,

## Proposition 7.1

Suppose  $p$  is prime, and  $|G| = p^2$ . Then either  $G$  is cyclic, or  $G \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ .

### Proof:

Suppose  $G$  is not cyclic. Choose  $a \in G \setminus \{e\}$ . Then  $\langle a \rangle \neq G$ , since  $|a| \neq 1, |a| \mid p$ , then  $|a| = p$ . We can find  $b \in G \setminus \langle a \rangle$ . We know  $\langle a \rangle \neq G$  either,  $|b| = p$  as well.

Let  $H = \langle a \rangle, K = \langle b \rangle$ . Since  $H \cap K < K$ , and  $|H \cap K| \mid |K| = p$ , thus  $|H \cap K| = 1$ , then  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ . So  $|HK| = |H| |K| / |H \cap K| = p^2$ , which implies  $HK = G$ .



Also  $[G : H] = [G : K] = p$ , which is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ , which implies  $H, K \trianglelefteq G$ . Therefore  $G \cong H \times K \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ .  $\square$

## 7.1 Groups of order $pq$

### Lemma 7.2

Suppose  $H, K \trianglelefteq G$ , where  $\gcd(|H|, |K|) = 1$ , and  $|H| \cdot |K| = |G|$ . Then  $G \cong H \times K$ .

#### Proof:

Since  $|H \cap K|$  divides both  $|H|, |K|$ , thus  $|H \cap K| = 1$ , then  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ .

Also  $|HK| = |H| \cdot |K| / |H \cap K| = |G| \implies HK = G$ . Use characterization of products, then  $G \cong H \times K$ .  $\square$

Suppose  $|G| = pq$ ,  $p < q$  distinct primes. What can we say about  $G$ ?

Cauchy's theorem:  $G$  has elements  $a, b$  with  $|a| = p, |b| = q$ . Let  $H = \langle a \rangle, K = \langle b \rangle$ . Note  $\gcd(|H|, |K|) = 1$ , and  $|H| \cdot |K| = |G|$ . But we have to ask that *are*  $H, K \trianglelefteq G$ ?

We know  $[G : K] = p$ , the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ , so  $K \trianglelefteq G$ . Is  $H \trianglelefteq G$ ? Not necessarily.

We already got a counterexample:  $G = D_6, H = \langle r \rangle, K = \langle s \rangle$ .

Suppose  $H, K \leq G, HK = G, H \cap K = \{e\}$ , and  $K \trianglelefteq G$ . Is it true that  $G \cong H \times K$ ? No!

In our counterexample, that would make  $D_6 \cong H \times K \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ , which is abelian, but  $D_6$  is nonabelian. It is not necessarily true that  $G \cong H \times K$  if just one of the subgroup is normal.

However, there is a set bijection  $H \times K \rightarrow G : (h, k) \mapsto hk$ , and we can see  $G \cong H \ltimes K$ , the **semidirect product** of  $H$  and  $K$ .

For  $p = 2, q = 3$ , it turns out  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_6$ , and  $D_6 \cong S_3$  are the only groups of order 6.

Difficulty in analyzing  $pq$  case:  $H \leq G$  might not be normal. This concern is not present if  $G$  is abelian. If  $G$  is abelian, every subgroup is normal.

Our focus in this chapter will be **finite abelian groups**.

There are lots of other ways to approach the classification problem. Notice that for small orders, we are essentially describing groups as built out of other smaller groups. For example, for the group of order 6, we have  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ .  $S_3$  is the semidirect product of  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ .

*When can a group be built out of smaller groups?* This is covered in the Galois theory.

Group is **simple** if it contains no normal subgroups. Simple groups are the minimal building blocks for other groups in the sense they cannot be broken down any further.

Finally, by looking at the isomorphism problem for **finitely-presented groups**, we see that the classification problem for finite groups cannot be solved.

## 7.2 Classification of finite abelian groups

Recall Lemma 7.2, how can we find subgroups of coprime order? Let's ask an easier question: how can find subgroups of order  $m$  for some given  $m$  inside the abelian group?

### Lemma 7.3

Suppose  $G$  is an abelian group. Let  $G^{(m)} = \{g \in G : g^m = e\}$ . Then  $G^{(m)} \leq G$  for all  $m \geq 1$ .

#### Proof:

Clearly  $e \in G^{(m)}$  for all  $m \geq 1$ .

If  $g, h \in G^{(m)}$ , then  $(g^{-1}h)^m = g^{-m}h^m = e$  since  $G$  is abelian. □

$G^{(m)}$  is the  $m$ -torsion subgroup.

### Proposition 7.4

Suppose  $G$  is abelian and  $|G| = mn$ , where  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ . Then

- $\phi : G \rightarrow G^{(m)} \times G^{(n)} : g \mapsto (g^n, g^m)$  is an isomorphism.
- $|G^{(m)}| = m$  and  $|G^{(n)}| = n$ .

#### Proof:

- If  $g \in G$ , then  $g^{mn} = e$ , so  $g^n \in G^{(m)}$  and  $g^m \in G^{(n)}$ . Hence  $\phi$  is well-defined.

Now find  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $an + bm = 1$ .

If  $\phi(g) = e$ , then  $g^n = g^m = e \implies g = g^{an+bm=e}$ , so  $\phi$  is injective.

If  $g \in G^{(m)}$  and  $h \in G^{(n)}$ , then  $g^{an} = g^{an}g^{bm} = g^{an+bm} = g$ , and similarly  $h^{bm} = h^{an+bm} = h$ , so  $\phi(g^a h^b) = (g^{an} h^{bm}, g^{am} h^{bn}) = (g, h)$ . Therefore,  $\phi$  is surjective. Hence bijective. Now we want to show  $\phi$  is a homomorphism:

$$\phi(gh) = ((gh)^n, (gh)^m) = (g^n h^n, g^m h^m) = (g^n, g^m) \cdot (h^n, h^m) = \phi(g)\phi(h)$$

as required.

- Since  $G \cong G^{(m)} \times G^{(n)}$ ,  $|G^{(m)}| \cdot |G^{(n)}| = |G|$ .

Suppose  $|G| = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$  is the prime factorization of  $|G|$ . Since  $|G| = mn$  and  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ , we have

$$m = p_1^{b_1} \cdots p_k^{b_k} \text{ and } n = p_1^{c_1} \cdots p_k^{c_k}$$

where for each  $i$ ,  $a_i = b_i + c_i$ , and only one of  $b_i, c_i$  is non-zero.

Suppose  $b_i > 0$ . If  $p_i \mid |G^{(n)}|$ , then by Cauchy's theorem,  $G^{(n)}$  has an element  $a$  of order  $p_i$ . We also know that  $p_i \mid m$ , this means  $a \in G^{(m)}$ , then  $\phi(a) = (a^m, a^n) = (e, e) = e_{G^{(m)} \times G^{(n)}}$ . Thus  $a \in \ker \phi$ . Since  $\phi$  is injective, thus  $a = e$ , contradicting to the fact that  $a$  has order  $p_i$ . Thus  $p_i \nmid |G^{(n)}|$ .

We know that  $p_i^{a_i} \mid |G| = |G^{(m)}| \cdot |G^{(n)}|$ . Then we must have  $p_i^{a_i} = p_i^{b_i} \mid |G^{(m)}|$ .

Therefore,  $m \mid |G^{(m)}|$ . Similarly,  $n \mid |G^{(n)}|$ . So the only possibility is  $|G^{(m)}| = m$  and  $|G^{(n)}| = n$ .  $\square$

### Example: $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}$

Suppose  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ , and let  $G = \mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}$ .

If  $m[x] = 0$  for  $0 \leq x < mn$ , then  $mn \mid mx \iff n \mid x$ . So  $G^{(m)} = \{[x] \in G : m[x] = 0\} = n\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}$ .

Since  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow n\mathbb{Z} : x \mapsto nx$  is an isomorphism sending  $m\mathbb{Z} \mapsto mn\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n\mathbb{Z}/mb\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Similarly  $G^{(n)} \cong m\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

From Proposition 7.4,  $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z} \cong (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ .

### Remark:

This example shows that a cyclic group can actually be a product of two cyclic groups.

Do we really need the assumption that  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ ? After all, we didn't use the assumption until the final step we apply the proposition. Actually, we do need  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ . When  $\gcd(m, n) > 1$ ,  $G^{(m)}$  and  $G^{(n)}$  intersect with each other, then  $\phi$  here would not be injective, thus has a non-trivial kernel.

### Corollary 7.5

Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group, and let  $|G| = p_1^{a_1} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$ , where  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  are distinct primes and  $a_i > 0$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Then  $G \cong G_1 \times G_2 \times \cdots \times G_k$ , where  $|G_i| = p_i^{a_i}$ .

### Proof:

Let  $G_1 = G^{(p_1^{a_1})}$  and take  $r = p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$ .

Since  $p_1^{a_1}$  and  $r$  are coprime and  $p_1^{a_1} \cdot r = |G|$ , Proposition 7.4 implies  $G \cong G_1 \times G^{(r)}$ , and that  $|G_1| = p_1^{a_1}$ ,  $|G^{(r)}| = r$ .

We can continue to get  $G^{(r)} = G_2 \times \cdots \times G_k$  with  $|G_i| = p_i^{a_i}$ .  $\square$

### Proposition 7.6

If  $G$  is a finite abelian group, then  $G \cong C_{a_1} \times C_{a_2} \times \cdots \times C_{a_k}$  for some sequence  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  where every  $a_i$  is a prime power.

Recall  $C_n$  is the multiplicative form of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof:**

By Corollary 7.5, can assume that  $G$  is a  $p$ -group, i.e.,  $|G| = p^n$  for some  $n$ .

Proof by induction on  $n$ . For base case  $n = 0$ , take  $k = 0$ .

Choose an element  $x \in G$  of maximal order, let  $|x| = p^r$ . Since  $G$  is abelian,  $N = \langle x \rangle \trianglelefteq G$ .

$|G/N| < |G|$ , so by induction,  $G/N = C_{b_1} \times \cdots \times C_{b_\ell}$  for some sequence  $b_1, \dots, b_\ell$  of prime powers. By Lagrange's theorem,  $|C_{b_i}| \mid |G/N|$  and  $|G/N| \mid |G|$ , then we must have  $b_i = p^{s_i}$  for some  $s_i$ .

For each  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$ , let  $\tilde{y}_i$  be the generator of  $C_{b_i}$ .

Let  $y_i N \in G/N$  be the element of  $G/N$  corresponding to  $(e, \dots, e, \tilde{y}_i, e, \dots, e)$  (i.e.,  $\tilde{y}_i$  in the  $i$ -th position). The order of  $y_i N$  in  $G/N$  is the same as  $(e, \dots, e, \tilde{y}_i, e, \dots, e)$  in the product, and the same as  $\tilde{y}_i$  in  $C_{b_i}$ , which is  $b_i = p^{s_i}$ . However,  $y_i$  in  $G$  is the element we pick to represent class  $y_i N$ , thus we could possibly have larger order of  $y_i$  in  $G$ .

Let  $|y_i| = p^{t_i}$ , and note that  $r \geq t_i \geq s_i$  since the element  $x$  is of maximal order  $r$ .

Since  $y_i N$  has order  $b_i$ , then  $y_i^{b_i} \in N$ , so  $y_i^{b_i} = x^{c_i}$ . Since  $b_i = p^{s_i} \mid |y_i| = p^{t_i}$ , then  $|y_i^{b_i}| = p^{t_i}/p^{s_i} = p^{t_i-s_i}$ . To have  $x^{c_i}$  of the order  $p^{t_i-s_i}$ , we must have  $c_i = d_i p^{r-(t_i-s_i)} = d_i p^{r-t_i+s_i}$ .

Let  $z_i = y_i x^{-d_i p^{r-t_i}}$ . Since  $x^{-d_i p^{r-t_i}} \in N$ , then  $z_i \in y_i N$ , then  $z_i N = y_i N$ . Now

$$z_i^{b_i} = y_i^{b_i} x^{-d_i p^{r-t_i} \cdot p^{s_i}} = y_i^{b_i} x^{-d_i p^{r-t_i+s_i}} = x^{c_i} x^{-c_i} = e$$

The quotient map sends  $z_i$  to  $y_i N$ , thus  $|z_i|$  can't be less than  $b_i$ . So  $|z_i| = b_i$ .

Let  $H = \langle z_1, \dots, z_\ell \rangle \leq G$ , and suppose  $w \in H \cap N$ . Then  $w = z_1^{n_1} \cdots z_\ell^{n_\ell}$  for some  $0 \leq n_1 < b_1, \dots, 0 \leq n_\ell < b_\ell$ .

Let  $q : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map. Then

$$q(w) = q(z_1)^{n_1} \cdots q(z_\ell)^{n_\ell} = (z_1 N)^{n_1} \cdots (z_\ell N)^{n_\ell} = (y_1 N)^{n_1} \cdots (y_\ell N)^{n_\ell} \cong (\tilde{y}_1^{n_1}, \dots, \tilde{y}_\ell^{n_\ell})$$

But since  $w \in N$ ,  $q(w) = e$ , then we must have  $n_1 = n_2 = \dots = n_\ell = 0$ . Thus  $w = e$ , i.e.,  $H \cap N = \{e\}$ .

Suppose  $g \in G$ . Then  $gN \cong (\tilde{y}_1^{n_1}, \dots, \tilde{y}_\ell^{n_\ell})$  for some  $n_1, \dots, n_\ell$ . Then  $gN = (z_1 N)^{n_1} \cdots (z_\ell N)^{n_\ell} = (z_1^{n_1} \cdots z_\ell^{n_\ell}) N$ . In particular  $g \in HN$ . Thus every element in  $G$  is in  $HN$ , then  $HN = G$ .

Since  $G$  is abelian,  $H, N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then from the characterization of products,  $G = N \times H$ .

Now  $N \cong C_{p^r}$ , and  $|H| < |G|$ . By induction,  $H$  is also a product of prime-power cyclic groups.  $\square$

**Remark:**

We can show that  $H$  is isomorphic to  $G/N$ , and in particular, it has the same factorizations into prime power cyclic groups.

**Theorem 7.7: Classification of finite abelian groups**

If  $G$  is a finite abelian group, then  $G \cong C_{a_1} \times C_{a_2} \times \cdots \times C_{a_k}$ , where  $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots, a_k$  is a sequence of prime powers.

Furthermore, if  $G \cong C_{b_1} \times C_{b_2} \times \cdots \times C_{b_\ell}$ , where  $b_1 \leq b_2 \leq \cdots \leq b_\ell$  is another sequence of prime powers, then  $k = \ell$  and  $a_i = b_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .

**Example:**

$C_2 \times C_3 \cong C_6$ , so the requirement that  $a_i$  be a prime-power is necessary for uniqueness.

**Proof:**

We just need to prove uniqueness.

If  $G \cong C_{b_1} \times \cdots \times C_{b_\ell}$ , then  $G^{(m)} \cong C_{b_1}^{(m)} \times \cdots \times C_{b_\ell}^{(m)}$ .

If  $p \neq q$  are distinct primes, then  $C_{p^r}^{(q^s)} = \{e\}$ . Otherwise  $|C_{p^r}^{(p^s)}| = p^{\min(r,s)}$ .

So

$$|G^{(p^r)}| = \prod_{s \geq 1} \prod_{i: b_i = p^s} |C_{b_i}^{(p^r)}| = \prod_{s \geq 1} \prod_{i: b_i = p^s} p^{\min(r,s)}$$

hence

$$|G^{(p^r)}| / |G^{(p^{r-1})}| = \prod_{s \geq r} \prod_{i: b_i = p^s} p$$

So

$$\log_p |G^{(p^r)}| - \log_p |G^{(p^{r-1})}| = |\{i : b_i = p^s \text{ for some } s \geq r\}|$$

For every  $r$  and  $p$ , we can recover  $\ell$  and  $b_1, \dots, b_\ell$  from these numbers. Since the LHS doesn't depend on the choice of factorization at all, LHS is exactly the same number for both choices of factorization, then we can recover  $\ell, k$  and  $a_i, b_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ .  $\square$

## 7.3 Simple Groups

To be updated.

## 7.4 Semidirect products

To be updated.

## 7.5 Free Groups and finitely presented groups

To be updated.



## PART II:

# RING THEORY

The theory of groups is concerned with general properties of certain objects having an algebraic structure defined by a single binary operation. The study of rings is concerned with objects possessing two binary operations (called addition and multiplication) related by the distributive laws.

*Abstract Algebra, Third Edition*

# Introduction to Rings

week 7

## 8.1 An intro

As we learn about mathematics, we learn about different notions of numbers:

$$\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Functions} \rightarrow \text{Polynomials} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \rightarrow M_n\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$$

All of these sets have two operations: addition  $+$  and multiplication  $\cdot$ .

Rings are abstract structure designed to capture what all these examples have in common.

### ring

A **ring** is defined to be a tuple  $(R, +, \cdot)$  where

- (a)  $(R, +)$  is an abelian group, and
- (b)  $\cdot$  is an associative binary operation on  $R$  such that

$$(a + b) \cdot c = a \cdot c + b \cdot c \text{ and } a \cdot (b + c) = a \cdot b + a \cdot c$$

This last condition is called the **distributive property**.

The operation  $+$  is called **addition**, and  $\cdot$  is called **multiplication**.

### commutative ring

A ring is **commutative** if  $\cdot$  is commutative, i.e., if  $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$  for all  $a, b \in R$ .

#### Example:

$\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  are all commutative rings.

$(\mathbb{N}, +, \cdot)$  is not a ring, since  $(\mathbb{N}, +)$  is not a group.

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is a commutative ring.

If  $R$  is a ring, and  $X$  is a set, then  $\text{Fun}(X, R)$  is a ring with pointwise multiplication and addition.

If  $R$  is a (commutative) ring, then polynomials  $R[x]$  with coefficients in  $R$  is a (commutative) ring.

If  $R$  is a ring, and  $n \geq 1$ , then the set of  $n \times n$  matrices  $M_n R$  with coefficients in  $R$  is a ring under the usual matrix operations.

If  $\circ : M_n \mathbb{C} \times M_n \mathbb{C} \rightarrow M_n \mathbb{C} : (A, B) \rightarrow \frac{AB+BA}{2}$  then  $(M_n \mathbb{C}, +, \circ)$  is not ring, since  $\circ$  is not associative.

As with groups, we usually refer to a ring  $(R, +, \cdot)$  as  $R$  when the operations are clear.

We always use additive notation for the group  $(R, +)$ , and almost always use  $+$  for the symbol. (Sometimes  $\oplus$  is used, for instance for  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ . XOR in computer science.)

In particular, denote identity of  $(R, +)$  by  $0$  and inverse of  $x \in R$  with respect to  $+$  by  $-x$ .

Some variation in notation is permitted for multiplication (you might see  $\cdot$  or  $\times$  or  $\otimes$  or  $\boxtimes$ , etc)

But typically just denote multiplication of  $a$  and  $b$  by  $ab$ .

### Proposition 8.1

If  $R$  is a ring, then

- (a)  $0 \cdot a = a \cdot 0 = 0$  for all  $a \in R$ .
- (b)  $(-a) \cdot b = a \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot b)$  for all  $a, b \in R$
- (c)  $(-a) \cdot (-b) = a \cdot b$  for all  $a, b \in R$ .

**Proof:**

- (a)  $0 \cdot a = (0 + 0) \cdot a = 0 \cdot a + 0 \cdot a \implies 0 \cdot a = 0$ . Similarly,  $a \cdot 0$ .
- (b)  $0 = 0 \cdot b = (a + (-a)) \cdot b = a \cdot b + (-a) \cdot b \implies (-a) \cdot b = -a \cdot b$ . Similarly,  $a \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot b)$ .
- (c)  $(-a) \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot (-b)) = -(-(a \cdot b)) = a \cdot b$ . □

Recall that an **identity** for a binary operation  $\cdot$  on a set  $R$  is an element  $1$  such that  $1 \cdot x = x \cdot 1 = x$  for all  $x \in R$ . Also, if an identity exists, it is unique.

### ring with identity

A **ring with identity** is a ring  $(R, +, \cdot)$  where  $\cdot$  has an identity.



**Note**

In this course, **ring** means **ring with identity** unless otherwise noted.

This assumption is common outside this course as well. If a ring doesn't have an identity, we can call it a **ring without an identity**, or a **ring not necessarily having an identity**.

The term **rng** is sometimes used for rings without identity, since it's a ring without an  $i$ .

Fitting our assumption, all the examples of rings mentioned so far are rings with identities.

For  $\text{Fun}(X, R)$ ,  $R[x]$ ,  $M_n R$  need to assume that  $R$  has an identity.

Notation: Use  $1$  to denote identity in ring  $R$ .

When we talk about subrings, we'll give some examples of rings without identity.

**Proposition 8.2**

If  $R$  is a ring (with identity), then  $-a = (-1) \cdot a$  for all  $a \in R$ .

**Proof:**

$$0 = 0 \cdot a = (1 + (-1)) \cdot a = 1 \cdot a + (-1) \cdot a = a + (-1) \cdot a$$

□

## 8.2 Fields and units

**unit**

Let  $R$  be a ring. An element  $x \in R$  is called a **unit** if  $x$  has an inverse with respect to multiplication  $\cdot$  (i.e., if there is  $y \in R$  such that  $xy = yx = 1$ )

The set of units in  $R$  is denoted by  $R^\times$ .

If  $x$  is a unit, then the inverse of  $x$  is unique, and is denoted by  $x^{-1}$ .

We know that the set of units  $R^\times$  forms a group under multiplication, and thus is called the **group of units of  $R$** .

**Example:**

$$\mathbb{Z}^\times = \{\pm 1\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$

$$\mathbb{Q}^\times = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} : x \neq 0\}$$

The smallest possible ring is  $R = \{0\}$ , with multiplication  $0 \cdot 0 = 0$ . This is a ring with identity  $1 = 0$ . This ring is called the **trivial ring** or **zero ring**.

Unlike the trivial group, which is crucial in group theory, the trivial ring is often an annoyance, since there's a special property that holds only for the trivial ring:

**Lemma 8.3**

Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $1 = 0$  if and only if  $R$  is trivial.

**Proof:**

If  $1 = 0$ , then  $x = 1 \cdot x = 0 \cdot x = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . □

If  $R$  is a ring with  $1 \neq 0$ , then  $0 \cdot y = 0 \neq 1$  for all  $y \in R \implies 0 \notin R^\times$ .

**division ring**

A **division ring** is ring  $R$  with  $1 \neq 0$ , such that  $R^\times = R \setminus \{0\}$ .

**field**

A **field** is a commutative division ring.

$\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  are all fields. Recall: if  $\alpha = a + bi \in \mathbb{C}$ , then  $\alpha\bar{\alpha} = |\alpha|^2 = a^2 + b^2$ , and  $|\alpha| = 0$  if and only if  $\alpha = 0$ , so if  $\alpha \neq 0$ , then  $\alpha^{-1} = \bar{\alpha}/|\alpha|^2$ .

**Example:  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$** 

We're used to working with  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  as a group under  $+$ . It also has a multiplication  $[x] \cdot [y] = [xy]$ . With this multiplication,  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is a ring.

**Lemma 8.4**

$[x]$  is a unit in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  if and only if  $\gcd(x, n) = 1$ .

**Proof:**

If  $\gcd(x, n) = 1$ , then  $ax + bn = 1$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $n \mid ax - 1$ ,  $[ax] = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .

Conversely, if  $[ax] = 1$ , then  $ax - 1 = bn$  for some  $b \in \mathbb{Z}$  implies  $\gcd(x, n) = 1$ . □

**Corollary 8.5**

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is a field if and only if  $n$  is prime.

In particular, there are fields  $\mathbb{K}$  where  $\mathbb{K}$  is finite.

**Theorem 8.6: Wedderburn**

Any finite division ring is a field.

**ring of quaternions**

The **ring of quaternions** is the ring  $Q = (\mathbb{R}^4, +, \cdot)$ , where  $+$  is vector addition, and for  $\cdot$  we denote the standard basis vectors by  $1, i, j$  and  $k$ , and set  $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$ , and  $ijk = -1$ .

In this ring, we have  $ij = k$  and  $jk = i \Rightarrow ji = -k$ , so  $Q$  is non-commutative.  $Q$  is an example of a non-commutative division ring.

**Note**

Rings with identity are also called **unital rings**.

Rings without identity can be called **non-unital rings**.

This term is a little more compact than “ring with identity” and works a lot better when we start talking about subrings and homomorphisms.

Later in this course, rings will mean unital rings by default. Textbook uses the opposite: by default rings will mean non-unital rings.

### 8.3 Subrings

**subring**

Let  $R$  be a ring. A subset  $S \subseteq R$  is a **subring** if

- (a)  $S$  is a subgroup of  $(R, +)$ ,
- (b) if  $a, b \in S$ , then  $ab \in S$ , and
- (c)  $1 \in S$ .

**Lemma 8.7**

If  $S$  is a subring of  $(R, +, \cdot)$ , then  $(S, +, \cdot)$  is a ring.

**Example: Subrings**

$\mathbb{Z}$  is a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , which is a subring of  $\mathbb{R}$ , which is a subring of  $\mathbb{C}$ , which is a subring of the quaternions  $Q$ .

The ring  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  of polynomial functions with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}$  is a subring of  $\text{Fun}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ .

$M_n\mathbb{Z}$  is a subring of  $M_n\mathbb{R}$ .

**Example: Not subrings**

$\mathbb{Q}^\times$  is not a subring of  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

$\text{span}\{1, x\}$  is not a subring of  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ , since it is not closed under multiplication.

$2\mathbb{Z}$  is not a subring of  $\mathbb{Z}$  since  $1 \notin \mathbb{Z}$ .

$\{0\}$  is not a subring of any non-trivial ring  $R$ . (a) and (b) are satisfied. (c) is not satisfied since  $\{0\}$  doesn't contain the identity of  $R$ .

If we work with non-unital rings, then we might not care that subrings contain the identity.

### Alternative for non-unital rings

Let  $R$  be a non-necessarily-unital ring. A subset  $S \subseteq R$  is a **subring** if

- (a)  $S$  is a subgroup of  $(R, +)$ , and
- (b) if  $a, b \in S$ , then  $ab \in S$ .

If, in addition,  $R$  is a unital ring, and

- (c)  $1 \in S$ ,

then  $S$  is said to be a **unital subring**.

In this course, ring = unital ring and subring = unital subring. We'll call sets satisfying (a) and (b) "non-unital subrings".

One reason for interest in non-unital subrings is that many unital rings have interesting non-unital subrings:

#### Example: Real polynomials

Let  $R = \mathbb{R}[x]$ , the ring of polynomials with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let  $x\mathbb{R}[x] = \{f \in \mathbb{R}[x] : \text{constant term of } f = 0\}$ . Alternatively,  $f \in x\mathbb{R}[x]$  if and only if  $f(0) = 0$ .

If  $f, g \in x\mathbb{R}[x]$ , then  $f - g \in x\mathbb{R}[x]$ , so  $x\mathbb{R}[x]$  is subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ . And  $f \cdot g \in x\mathbb{R}[x]$  since  $(fg)(0) = f(0)g(0) = 0$ . But  $1 \notin x\mathbb{R}[x]$ , so  $x\mathbb{R}[x]$  is non-unital subring.

Exercise: check that  $(x\mathbb{R}[x], +, \cdot)$  is a non-unital ring where it doesn't have an identity element at all.

#### Example: $\text{Fun}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$

Let  $R = \text{Fun}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ .

A function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is **compactly supported** if there is some interval  $[a, b]$  with  $a < b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(x) = 0$  for all  $x \notin [a, b]$ .

0 is compactly supported. Suppose  $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are compactly supported. Can choose  $a < b$  such that  $f(x) = g(x) = 0$  for  $x \notin [a, b]$  (here we can choose minimum of two left endpoints and maximum of two right endpoints). Then  $(f - g)(x) = (fg)(x) = 0$  for  $x \notin [a, b]$ , so  $f - g$  and  $f \cdot g$  are compactly supported.

Identity in  $\text{Fun}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$  is constant function 1, not compactly supported.

So compactly supported functions are a non-unital subring.

Claim: compact supported functions are a non-unital ring.

**Proof:**

Suppose  $f$  is an identity element. Then there is some interval  $[a, b]$  such that  $f(x) = 0$  for  $x \notin [a, b]$ . There is a compactly supported function  $g$  such that  $g(x) \neq 0$  for some  $x \notin [a, b]$ . But then  $fg(x) = f(x)g(x) = 0 \neq g(x)$ , so  $f$  is not an identity.  $\square$

Suppose  $x \in R$ , where  $R$  is a (unital) ring, and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $(R, +)$  is an abelian group,  $nx$  is well-defined (from additive notation). Take  $x = 1$ , then can think of  $n$  as the element  $n1 \in R$ , in the sense that if  $x \in R$ , can talk about  $n \cdot x$  or  $x \cdot n$  or  $x \pm n$ .

For example, in  $\mathbb{Z}/10\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $10 \cdot 1 = 0$ .

#### Lemma 8.8

If  $R$  is a ring,  $x \in R$ , and  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then

- $n1 \cdot x = x \cdot n1 = nx$ , and
- $n(mx) = (nm)x$ .

**Proof:**

Idea: If  $n \geq 0$ , then  $n1 \cdot x = (1 + 1 + \dots + 1) \cdot x = nx$   $\square$

## 8.4 Characteristic and prime subring

#### Lemma 8.9

Let  $R$  be a ring. The set  $R_0 = \{n1 : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is a subring of  $R$ , and is contained in every other subring. Furthermore, as a group,  $R_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $k = \min\{m \in \mathbb{Z} : m1 = 0\}$ , (or  $k = 0$  if this set is empty).

#### prime subring

$R_0$  is called the **prime subring** of  $R$ , and  $k$  is called the **characteristic** of  $R$ , denoted  $\text{char}(R)$ .

**Example:**

$$\text{char}(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) = n.$$

$$\text{char}(\mathbb{Z}) = 0.$$

$$\text{char}(R) = 1 \text{ if and only if } R = \{0\}.$$

**Lemma 8.9**

Let  $R$  be a ring. The set  $R_0 = \{n1 : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is a subring of  $R$ , and is contained in every other subring. Furthermore, as a group,  $R_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $k = \min\{m \in \mathbb{N} : m1 = 0\} \cup \{0\}$ .

**Proof:**

$R_0$  is the cyclic subgroup of  $(R, +)$  generated by 1. As a cyclic group,  $R_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}/k\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $k = \min\{m \in \mathbb{N} : m1 = 0\}$  or  $k = 0$ . ( $k$  is equal to the order of 1 or 0 if the order is infinity).

If  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $n1 \cdot m1 = nm1 \in R_0$ . And  $1 \in R_0$ , so  $R_0$  is a unital subring.

If  $S$  is a unital subring of  $R$ , then  $1 \in S$ , and  $S \leq (R, +)$ , so  $S$  contains cyclic subgroup  $R_0$  generated by 1.  $\square$

**centre of  $R$** 

If  $R$  is a ring, the **centre** of  $R$  is the set  $Z(R) = \{x \in R : xy = yx \text{ for all } y \in R\}$ .

**Lemma 8.10**

$Z(R)$  is a subring of  $R$ .

**Proof:**

Exercise.  $\square$

**Corollary 8.11**

If  $R$  is a non-zero ring, then  $Z(R)$  is non-trivial.

**Proof:**

$Z(R)$  contains prime subring  $R_0$ .  $\square$

## 8.5 Homomorphisms

**homomorphism**

Let  $R$  and  $S$  be rings. A function  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  is a **(unital) homomorphism** if

1.  $\phi : (R, +) \rightarrow (S, +)$  is a group homomorphism,
2.  $\phi(ab) = \phi(a)\phi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in R$ , and
3.  $\phi(1_R) = 1_S$ .

If 1 and 2 are satisfied, but 3 is not, then  $\phi$  is a **non-unital homomorphism**.

**Note**

In this class, homomorphism = unital homomorphism. Textbook uses non-unital homomorphism as default.

**Example:**

If  $S$  is a subring of  $R$ , then  $i : S \rightarrow R : x \mapsto x$  is a homomorphism.

The quotient maps  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} : x \mapsto [x]$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z})/(m\mathbb{Z}/mn\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} : [x] \mapsto [x]$  are homomorphisms since  $[xy] = [x] \cdot [y]$ .

**isomorphism**

A homomorphism  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  is an **isomorphism** if  $\phi$  is bijective.

**Proposition 8.12**

Let  $R_0 = \mathbb{Z}1_R$  be the prime subring of a ring  $R$ , and let  $n = \text{char}(R)$ . Then  $\phi : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R_0 : [x] \mapsto x1$  is a ring homomorphism.

**Proof:**

We already showed that  $\phi$  is a well-defined group isomorphism. So  $\phi$  is bijective.

If  $[a], [b] \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi([a] \cdot [b]) &= \phi([ab]) \\
 &= ab1 \\
 &= a(b1) && \text{Here is abelian group operation} \\
 &= (a1) \cdot (b1) && \text{Here } \cdot \text{ is ring operation} \\
 &= \phi([a]) \cdot \phi([b]) && \text{Here } \cdot \text{ is ring operation}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\phi([1]) = 1$ , thus unital, then  $\phi$  is a homomorphism. Thus  $\phi$  is a ring isomorphism.  $\square$

**Proposition 8.13**

Let  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  be a homomorphism.

- (a) If  $a \in R$  and  $n \geq 0$ , then  $\phi(a^n) = \phi(a)^n$ .
- (b) If  $u \in R^\times$ , then  $\phi(u) \in S^\times$ , and  $\phi(u^n) = \phi(u)^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- (c) If  $\phi$  is an isomorphism, then  $\phi^{-1}$  is a ring homomorphism.

**Proof:**

- (a) Standard proof by induction. Starting from  $n = 2$ .
- (b) We know  $1 = \phi(1) = \phi(uu^{-1}) = \phi(u)\phi(u^{-1})$ , so  $\phi(u) \in S^\times$  and  $\phi(u^{-1}) = \phi(u)^{-1}$ . It follows from (a) that  $\phi(u^n) = \phi(u)^n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- (c) We already know  $\phi^{-1}$  is a group homomorphism.  $\phi(1_R) = 1_S \implies \phi^{-1}(1_S) = 1_R$ . And if  $a, b \in S$ , then  $a = \phi(\phi^{-1}(a)), b = \phi(\phi^{-1}(b))$ , so

$$ab = \phi(\phi^{-1}(a))\phi(\phi^{-1}(b)) = \phi(\phi^{-1}(a)\phi^{-1}(b)) \implies \phi^{-1}(ab) = \phi^{-1}\phi^{-1}(b)$$

Thus  $\phi^{-1}$  is a homomorphism.  $\square$

### Proposition 8.14

Let  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  be a homomorphism, where  $S$  is not zero.

- (a)  $\text{Im } \phi$  is a subring of  $S$ .
- (b)  $\ker \phi$  is a non-unital subring of  $R$ .

### Note

Here  $\text{Im } \phi$  and  $\ker \phi$  are the group theory image and kernel.

### Proof:

Proof of (a): We already know that  $\text{Im } \phi$  is a subgroup of  $(S, +)$ .

Since  $\phi(1_R) = 1_S, 1_S \in \text{Im } \phi$ . Finally, if  $a, b \in \text{Im } \phi$ , then  $a = \phi(x), b = \phi(y), x, y \in R$  and  $ab = \phi(x)\phi(y) = \phi(xy) \in \text{Im } \phi$ .  $\square$

### Remark:

If  $1 \in \ker \phi$  and  $\phi$  is unital, then  $1_S = \phi(1_R) = 0_S$ , so  $S$  must be zero ring, contradicting to our assumption  $S$  is not zero. Thus  $\ker \phi$  must be non-unital. What we are going to see later is that  $\ker \phi$  is a special type of non-unital subring, called ideal. We'll do this properly when we do ideals.

## 8.6 Polynomials

Let  $R$  be a ring. The **ring of polynomials in variable  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$**  is the ring with elements  $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$  for  $n \geq 0$ , and  $a_0, \dots, a_n \in R$ .

Addition and multiplication are defined as usual, so

$$\left( \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \right) \left( \sum_{j=0}^m b_j x^j \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{n+m} \sum_{i=0}^k a_i b_{k-i} x^k$$

where  $a_i = b_j = 0$  for  $i > n, j > m$ .

As usual, we can talk about degree, monomials, evaluation, etc. *how do we formalize all this?*



### $R[x]$ and binary operations

Given a ring  $R$ , let  $R[x]$  be the set

$$\{(a_i)_{i=0}^{+\infty} \subseteq R : \text{there exists } N \geq 0 \text{ such that } a_i = 0 \text{ for } i \geq N\}$$

We define binary operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  on  $R[x]$  by

$$(a_i)_{i=0}^{+\infty} + (b_i)_{i=0}^{+\infty} = (a_i + b_i)_{i=0}^{+\infty} \quad \text{and}$$

$$(a_i)_{i=0}^{+\infty} \cdot (b_i)_{i=0}^{+\infty} = (c_k)_{k=0}^{+\infty} \quad \text{where } c_k = \sum_{i=0}^k a_i b_{k-i}$$

The choice of variable matters only in that we let  $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$  denote  $(a_0, \dots, a_n, 0, 0, \dots)$  (note: not a unique representation). If we change the variable then we change this notation.

### Lemma 8.15

$(R[x], +, \cdot)$  is a ring.

#### Proof:

Need to show that  $+$  and  $\cdot$  are well-defined.

Let  $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}, (b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \in R[x]$ . Then there are  $N_1, N_2 \geq 0$  be such that  $a_i = 0$  for  $i \geq N_1$ ,  $b_j = 0$  for  $j \geq N_2$ . Then  $a_i + b_i = 0$  for  $i \geq \max(N_1, N_2)$ , so  $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} + (b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \in R[x]$ .

If  $k \geq N_1 + N_2$  and  $0 \leq i < N_1$ , then  $k - i > N_2$ . So  $\sum_{i=0}^k a_i b_{k-i} = 0$  if  $k \geq N_1 + N_2$ , which implies  $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \cdot (b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \in R[x]$ .

Then it's not hard to see  $(R[x], +)$  is an abelian group with  $0 = (0, 0, \dots)$ .

Next want to show that  $\cdot$  is associative. Suppose that  $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}, (b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}, (c_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \in R[x]$ .

Let  $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \cdot ((b_j)_{j=0}^{\infty} \cdot (c_k)_{k=0}^{\infty}) = (d_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ . Then

$$d_n = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \left( \sum_{j=0}^{n-i} b_j c_{n-i-j} \right) = \sum_{i+j+k=n} a_i b_j c_k = \sum_{\ell=0}^n \left( \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} a_i b_{\ell-i} \right) c_{n-\ell}$$

From this, we see that  $(d_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} = ((a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \cdot (b_j)_{j=0}^{\infty}) \cdot (c_k)_{k=0}^{\infty}$ . So  $\cdot$  is associative.

It's not hard to show  $1 = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$  is an identity for  $\cdot$ .

For distributivity, suppose  $(a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}, (b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}, (c_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \in R[x]$  again, let  $(d_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} = (a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \cdot ((b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} + (c_i)_{i=0}^{\infty})$ . Then

$$d_n = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \cdot (b_{n-i} + c_{n-i}) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i b_{n-i} + \sum_{i=0}^n a_i c_{n-i}$$

so  $(d_n)_{n=0}^{\infty} = (a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \cdot (b_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} + (a_i)_{i=0}^{\infty} \cdot (c_i)_{i=0}^{\infty}$ . Similarly we can show right distributivity.

Therefore,  $R[x]$  is a ring.  $\square$

$R[x]$  is called **the ring of polynomials in variable  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$** .

$x$  is referred to as the variable or indeterminate. Can use any variable we want, e.g.,  $R[x]$ ,  $R[y]$ ,  $R[\pi]$ .

We only use  $(a_i)_{i=0}^\infty$  to denote elements of  $R[x]$  when we are defining or proving something formally.

Use  $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$  when working with  $R[x]$ . If we don't want to specify coefficients, denote elements of  $R[x]$  by  $p$  or  $p(x)$ .

We can show that there is an isomorphism  $R[x] \cong R[y] : p(x) \mapsto p(y)$  (this works with  $x$  and  $y$  replaced by any pair of variables).

### degree

The **degree** of  $p(x) \in R[x]$  is the smallest integer  $n$  such that  $p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$  with  $a_n \neq 0$ , or  $-\infty$  if no such  $n$  exists. The degree is denoted by  $\deg(p)$ .

### Example:

$\deg(1) = 0$ ,  $\deg(1 + x - x^3) = 3$ ,  $\deg(0) = -\infty$ .

### coefficient

The **coefficient** of  $x^i$  in  $(a_i)_{i=0}^\infty \in R[x]$  is  $a_i$ .

### monomial

A **monomial** is a polynomial of the form  $x^i$  for some  $i \geq 0$ .

### term

A polynomial of the form  $a_i x^i$  is called a **term**.

### leading term/coefficient

If  $p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ , then the polynomials  $a_i x^i$ ,  $i = 0, \dots, n$  are called the **terms of  $p(x)$** .  $a_n x^n$  is the **leading term**, and  $a_n$  is the **leading coefficient**.

Polynomials of degree  $\leq 0$  are called **constant polynomials**. There is a constant polynomial  $ax^0 \in R[x]$  for every  $a \in R$ . Usually just denote this polynomial by  $a$ .

### Lemma 8.16

Let  $R$  be a ring. The set of constant polynomials in  $R[x]$  is a subring, and is isomorphic to  $R$ .

Because of this isomorphism, we think of  $R$  as a subring of  $R[x]$ .

### Lemma 8.17

If  $R$  is commutative, then  $R[x]$  is commutative.

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \cdot \sum_{j=0}^m b_j x^j &= \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m a_i b_j x^{i+j} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^m \sum_{i=0}^n b_j a_i x^{i+j} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^m b_j x^j \cdot \sum_{i=0}^n x^i \end{aligned}$$

□

$R[x]$  makes sense even if  $R$  is not commutative, but note that  $x \in Z(R[x])$ , so it's not the most natural.

### evaluation

If  $p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i \in R[x]$ , and  $c \in R$ , then the **evaluation** of  $p(x)$  at  $c$  is  $p(c) := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i c^i$ .

### Proposition 8.18

If  $R$  is commutative and  $c \in R$ , then  $R[x] \rightarrow R : p(x) \mapsto p(c)$  is a homomorphism.

This homomorphism is called **evaluation** at  $c$  or **substitution** at  $c$ . When necessary, we will denote it by  $\text{ev}_c$ . Note that  $\text{ev}_c$  being a homomorphism means that

$$(p + q)(c) = \text{ev}_c(p + q) = \text{ev}_c(p) + \text{ev}_c(q) = p(c) + q(c)$$

and similarly that  $(p \cdot q)(c) = p(c)q(c)$  and  $1(c) = 1$ .

**Proof:**

If  $p = \sum_i a_i x^i$ ,  $q = \sum_j b_j x^j$ , then

$$(p + q)(c) = \sum_i (a_i + b_i) c^i = \sum_i a_i c^i + \sum_i b_i c^i = p(c) + q(c)$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned}
 (p \cdot q)(c) &= \sum_k \sum_{i=0}^k a_i b_{k-i} c \\
 &= \sum_i \sum_j (a_i c^i)(b_j c^j) \\
 &= \left( \sum_i a_i c^i \right) \left( \sum_j b_j c^j \right) \\
 &= p(c)q(c)
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally  $1(c) = 1c^0 = 1$  as desired. □

Most common type of polynomial rings are  $\mathbb{K}(x)$ ,  $\mathbb{K}$  a field.

### Proposition 8.19

Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be a field. Then

- (a)  $\deg(fg) = \deg(f) + \deg(g)$  for all  $f, g \in \mathbb{K}[x]$
- (b)  $\mathbb{K}[x]^\times = \mathbb{K}^\times$

**Example:**

$\deg(0 \cdot f) = -\infty = -\infty + \deg(f) = \deg(0) + \deg(f)$  which explains why we set  $\deg(0) = -\infty$ .

**Example: Not a field...**

Let  $p(x) = 1 + 2x \in (\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})[x]$ . Then  $p(x)^2 = 1 + 4x + 4x^2 = 1$ . So  $p(x)$  is a unit.

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