



**SRM**  
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# 18MAB302T-DISCRETE MATHEMATICS

## **UNIT-4 : Group Theory and Group Codes**



## Topics

- Binary operation on a set- Groups and axioms of groups
- Properties of groups
- Permutation group, equivalence classes with addition modulo  $m$  and multiplication modulo  $m$
- Cyclic groups and properties
- Subgroups and necessary and sufficiency of a subset to be a subgroup
- Group homomorphism and properties
- Rings- definition and examples-Zero divisors
- Integral domain- definition , examples and properties.
- Fields – definition, examples and properties
- Coding Theory – Encoders and decoders- Hamming codes
- Hamming distance-Error detected by an encoding function
- Error correction using matrices
- Group codes-error correction in group codes-parity check matrix.
- Problems on error correction in group codes
- Procedure for decoding group codes
- Applications of sets, relations and functions in Engineering

# INTRODUCTION

- INTRODUCTION
- BASIC ALGEBRA
- ALGEBRAIC SYSTEM
- PROPERTIES OF ALGEBRAIC SYSTEM

# MODULE-1

## SETS

- A **Set** is a well defined collection of objects. These objects are otherwise called members or elements of the set. The set is denoted by capital letters A, B,C...
- **Examples** : A - The set of all colors in rainbow , S – the set of even numbers
- **Notations** : Sets are represented in two ways .
- **Roster form** : All the elements are listed. Ex.  $A = \{1,3,5,7,9\}$
- **Set builder form** : Defining the elements of the set by specifying their common property .
- **Example:**  $V = \{ x / x \text{ is vowel} \}$ 
  - [ the elements of V are a,e,i,o,u]
  - $S = \{ x / x = n^2, n \text{ is positive integer less than } 30 \}$
  - $S = \{1,4,9,16,25\}$

## BASIC ALGEBRA

### Number system

There are common notations for the number system which are

$\mathbb{R}$  – the set of all **Real numbers**,  $\mathbb{R}^+$  - the set of **Positive real numbers**.

$\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}^-$  - set of all **Integers**, **Positive integers**, **Negative integers**.

$\mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}^+$ ,  $\mathbb{C}^-$  - set of all **Complex**, **Positive complex**, **Negative complex numbers**.

$\mathbb{N}$  – set of all **Natural numbers** i.e  $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

$\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}^+$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}^-$  - set of **rational**, **positive rational**, **negative rational numbers**

## BASIC ALGEBRA-Number system

- **Congruence modulo  $n$**

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. If  $a$  and  $b$  are two integers and  $n$  divides  $a - b$  then we say that “ $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $n$ ” and we write  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ . The integer  $n$  is called modulus.

Example :  $23 \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$  ;  $16 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$

- **Congruence classes modulo  $n$**

Let  $a$  be an integer. Let  $[a]$  denote the set of all integers congruent to  $a \pmod{n}$

i.e  $[a] = \{x : x \in \mathbb{Z}, x \equiv a \pmod{n}\} = \{x : x \in \mathbb{Z}, x = a + kn\}$  for some integer  $k$ , then  $[a]$  is said to be equivalence class, modulo  $n$ , represented by  $[a]$ . The set of all congruence classes modulo  $n$  is denoted by  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ .

$$\therefore \mathbb{Z}_n = \{[0], [1], [2], \dots [n-1]\}$$

# BASIC ALGEBRA-Number system

- Addition of residue classes**

Let  $[a], [b] \in Z_n$  then their sum is denoted by  $+_n$  and is defined as follows:

$$[a] +_n [b] = \begin{cases} [a + b] & \text{if } a + b < n \\ [r] & \text{if } a + b \geq n \end{cases} \quad \text{where } r \text{ is the least non negative remainder when } a+b \text{ is}$$

divided by  $n$ . hence  $0 \leq r \leq n$

Ex.  $[1] +_5 [2] = [1+2] = 3$

$[3] +_5 [4] = [2] \quad \text{for } 3+4=7 > 5, \quad 7=1 \times 5 + 2$

$[3] +_5 [2] = [0]$

- Multiplication of residue classes**

Let  $[a], [b] \in Z_n$  then their product is denoted by  $\times_n$  and is defined as follows:

$$[a] \times_n [b] = \begin{cases} [ab] & \text{if } ab < n \\ [r] & \text{if } ab \geq n \end{cases} \quad \text{where } r \text{ is the least non negative integer when } ab \text{ is divided by}$$

$n$ . hence  $0 \leq r \leq n$

Ex.  $[2] \times_5 [2] = [4] \quad ; \quad [2] \times_5 [4] = [3] .$

$$Z_n = \{[0], [1], [2], \dots [n-1]\}$$

## Algebraic systems

- A **binary operation**  $*$  on a set  $A$  is defined as a function from  $A \times A$  into the set  $A$  itself..
- A non empty set  $A$  with one or more binary operations on it is called an **algebraic system**.

### Examples.

- Set :  $N = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  – the set of **natural numbers**, Operation : the usual addition ‘+’ which is a binary operation on  $N$ , then  $(N, +)$  is an algebraic system.
- Similarly,  $(Q, +)$ ,  $(Z, +)$ ,  $(R, +)$ ,  $(C, +)$  ... are algebraic systems



## General properties of algebraic system

Let  $(S, *)$  be an algebraic system,  $*$  is the binary operation on  $S$ .

- **Closure property** – For all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a * b \in S$
- **Associativity** - For all  $a, b, c \in S$ ,  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$ ,
- **Commutativity** - For all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a * b = b * a$
- **Identity element** – There exists an element  $e \in S$ , such that

$$\text{for any } a \in S, \quad a * e = e * a = a$$

- **Inverse element** – For every  $a \in S$ , there exists some  $b \in S$  such that

$$a * b = b * a = e, \text{ then } b \text{ is called the inverse element of } a.$$



## MODULE 2

- GROUP
- ABELIAN GROUP
- FINITE AND INFINITE GROUP
- EXAMPLES
- ORDER OF GROUP
- ORDER OF ELEMENT

# GROUPS

## Definition : Group

If  $G$  is a non empty set and  $*$  is a binary operation on  $G$ , then the algebraic system  $\{G, *\}$  is called a **group** if the following axioms are satisfied:

- 1) For all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a * b \in S$  [**Closure property**]
- 2) For all  $a, b, c \in G$ ,  $(a * b) * c = a * (b * c)$  (**Associativity**)
- 3) There exists an element  $e \in G$  such that, for any  $a \in G$ ,  $a * e = e * a = a$   
(**Existence of identity**)
- 4) For every  $a \in G$ , there exists an element  $a^{-1} \in G$  such that
$$a * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * a = e$$
(**Existence of inverse**)

## Abelian group

The group  $(G, *)$  which has commutative property ,

for all  $a, b \in S$ ,  $a * b = b * a$  , is called an abelian group.

- **Finite/Infinite group**

The group  $(G, *)$  is said to be finite or infinite according as the underlying set is finite or infinite.

- **Order of a group**

If  $(G, *)$  is a finite group , then the number of elements of  $G$  is the order of the group written as  $O(G)$  or  $|G|$

- **Order of an element**

Let  $(G, *)$  be a group and  $a \in G$ , the least positive integer  $m$ , such that  $a^m = e$ , the identity element of  $G$ , is called order of  $a$  and is written as  $O(a)=m$

## Examples for Groups

- 1) The set  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ , of all integers under addition forms a group.
- 2) The set of all  $2 \times 2$  non singular matrices over  $\mathbb{R}$  is an abelian group under matrix addition, but not abelian with respect to matrix multiplication as  $AB \neq BA$
- 3) The set  $\{1, -1, i, -i\}$  is an abelian group under multiplication of complex numbers .

## Permutation group

Let  $A$  be a non empty set, then a function  $f: A \rightarrow A$  is a permutation of  $A$  if  $f$  is both one to one and onto, that is  $f$  is bijective. Let  $S_A$  denotes the set of all permutations on  $A$ . Let  $f: A \rightarrow A$  and  $g: A \rightarrow A$  be two functions. Then their composition, denoted by  $f \circ g$ , is the function  $f \circ g: A \rightarrow A$  defined by  $(f \circ g)(a) = g(f(a))$ , the composition of function is the binary operation on  $S_A$ .

If  $A = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ , then the permutation  $p$  on  $A$  can be written as

$$p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & n \\ p(1) & p(2) & \dots & p(n) \end{pmatrix}$$

For example  $p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

If  $A$  has  $n$  elements  $S_A$  has  $n!$  Permutations.

## Permutation group

Let  $p1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $p2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , the composition of these two permutations is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} p1 \circ p2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 & 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$



## MODULE 3

- PROPERTIES OF GROUPS
- PROBLEMS ON GROUPS
- PROBLEMS ON ABELIAN GROUPS



## Properties of Group

### 1. The identity element of the group $(G, *)$ is unique.

**Proof :** If possible , let  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  be two identities of  $G$ .

$$e_1 = e_2 * e_1 \text{ [since } e_2 \text{ is the identity]}$$

$$= e_2 \text{ [since } e_1 \text{ is the identity]}$$

i.e  $e_1 = e_2$ , the identity element is unique

### 2. The inverse of each element of $(G, *)$ is unique.

**Proof :** If possible , let  $a'$  and  $a''$  be two inverses for  $a$  in  $G$ .

$$a * a' = a' * a = e$$

$$a * a'' = a'' * a = e$$

$$a' = a' * e = a' * (a * a'') = (a' * a) * a'' = e * a'' = a''$$

$a' = a''$  implies the inverse is unique.

## Properties of Group

### 3. The cancellation laws are true in a group

Viz,  $a * b = a * c \Rightarrow b = c$  [left cancellation law]

and  $b * a = c * a \Rightarrow b = c$  [right cancellation law]

**Proof :**

Let  $a * b = a * c$  ----(1)

Since  $a \in G, a^{-1} \in G$  exists such that  $a * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * a = e$

Pre multiplying (1) by  $a^{-1}$ ,  $a^{-1} * (a * b) = a^{-1} * (a * c)$

$$(a^{-1} * a) * b = (a^{-1} * a) * c$$

$$e * b = e * c \Rightarrow b = c$$

Let  $b * a = c * a \Rightarrow b = c$  -----(2)

Since  $a \in G, a^{-1} \in G$  exists such that  $a * a^{-1} = a^{-1} * a = e$

Post multiplying (2) by  $a^{-1}$ ,  $(b * a) * a^{-1} = (c * a) * a^{-1}$

$$b * (a * a^{-1}) = c * (a * a^{-1})$$

$$b * e = c * e \Rightarrow b = c$$

**4. Prove  $(a * b)^{-1} = b^{-1} * a^{-1}$ , for any  $a, b \in G$ .**

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Consider } (a * b) * (b^{-1} * a^{-1}) \\ &= a * (b * (b^{-1} * a^{-1})) \text{ [Associativity]} \\ &= a * (b * b^{-1}) * a^{-1} = a * e * a^{-1} = e \\ \therefore b^{-1} * a^{-1} \text{ is the inverse of } a * b.\end{aligned}$$

**5. If  $a, b \in G$ , the equation  $a * x = b$  has the unique solution  $x = a^{-1} * b$ .**

**6.  $(G, *)$  cannot have an idempotent element except the identity element.**

**7. If  $a$  has inverse  $b$  and  $b$  has inverse  $c$ , then  $a = c$ .**

## Problems on Groups

**1. Show that the set of all non zero real numbers namely  $\mathbb{R}-\{0\}$  forms an abelian group with respect to  $*$  defined by  $a * b = ab/2$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}-\{0\}$**

**Proof :** [To prove all the four axioms]

- **Closure** : if  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}-\{0\}$  then ,  $ab/2$  is also a non zero real number  $\in \mathbb{R}-\{0\}$
- **Associativity** :

$$a * (b * c) = a * (bc/2) = abc/4 \text{ -----(1)}$$

$$(a * b) * c = ab/2 * c = abc/4 \text{ -----(2)}$$

From (1) and (2) ,  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$

- **Identity element** :  $a * e = a$   
 $ae/2 = a$  implies  $e = 2$  is the identity element .
- **Inverse element** : for  $a \in \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$ ,  $a * a^{-1} = e$

$$\frac{aa^{-1}}{2} = 2 \Rightarrow a^{-1} = \frac{4}{a} \text{ is the inverse of } a$$

## Problems on Groups

- 2. Prove that the set  $R - \{1\}$  forms an abelian group with respect to  $*$  defined by  $a * b = (a + b - ab)$ , for all  $a, b \in R - \{1\}$ .**

**Proof :**

- **Closure** : If  $a, b \in R - \{1\}$  then ,  $(a + b - ab)$  is also a real number  $\in R - \{1\}$
- **Associativity** :

$$\begin{aligned} a * (b * c) &= a * (b + c - bc) = a + b + c - bc - a(b + c - bc) \\ &= a + b + c - ab - bc - ac + abc \\ (a * b) * c &= (a + b - ab) * c = a + b - ab + c - (a + b - ab)c \\ &= a + b + c - ab - bc - ac + abc \end{aligned}$$

Hence ,  $a * (b * c) = (a * b) * c$  .

- **Identity element** :  $a * e = a$   
 $a + e - ae = a \Rightarrow e = 0$  is the identity element .
- **Inverse element** : For  $a \in R - \{0\}$ ,  $a * a^{-1} = e$   
 $a + a^{-1} - aa^{-1} = 0$   
 $a^{-1} = \frac{a}{a-1}$  is the inverse of 'a', ( $a \neq 1$ ).



3. Let  $G = \{ f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 \}$  where  $f_1(x) = x$ ,  $f_2(x) = -x$ ,  $f_3(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $f_4(x) = -\frac{1}{x}$  and  $\circ$  be the composition of functions. Prove that  $(G, \circ)$  is a group.

Proof :

$\circ$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$
$f_1$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$
$f_2$	$f_2$	$f_1$	$f_4$	$f_3$
$f_3$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_1$	$f_2$
$f_4$	$f_4$	$f_3$	$f_2$	$f_1$

- **Closed** : From the table it is evident that  $\circ$  is closed.
- **Associativity** :

$$f_1 * (f_2 * f_3) = f_1 * f_4 = f_4$$

$$(f_1 * f_2) * f_3 = f_2 * f_3 = f_4$$

Hence ,  $f_1 * (f_2 * f_3) = (f_1 * f_2) * f_3$ .

- **Identity element** : From the table, we can see that  $f_1$  is the identity element.
- **Inverse element** : Inverse of every element is the element itself

4. Let  $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $S_A$  be the set of all permutations of  $A$ , then prove that with respect to right composition of permutations  $\circ$ ,  $\{S_A, \circ\}$  is an abelian group.

**Proof :**

Let  $S_A = \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4, p_5, p_6\}$  where

$$p_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, p_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, p_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$p_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, p_5 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } p_6 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\circ$	$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_3$	$p_4$	$p_5$	$p_6$
$p_1$	$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_3$	$p_4$	$p_5$	$p_6$
$p_2$	$p_2$	$p_1$	$p_4$	$p_3$	$p_6$	$p_5$
$p_3$	$p_3$	$p_4$	$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_4$	$p_1$
$p_4$	$p_4$	$p_3$	$p_2$	$p_1$	$p_3$	$p_2$
$p_5$	$p_5$	$p_6$	$p_4$	$p_3$	$p_1$	$p_4$
$p_6$	$p_6$	$p_5$	$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_4$	$p_1$

- From the above table, for any two or three elements we can prove closure and associative property.
- The identity element is  $p_1$  and the inverse of any element is the element itself.



## Problems on Groups

4. Let  $a \neq 0$  be a fixed real number and  $G = \{a^n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , Prove that  $G$  is an abelian group under multiplication .

**Proof :**

- **Closed :** if  $a^{n_1}, a^{n_2} \in G$  then  $a * b = a^{n_1+n_2} \in G$  as  $n_1+n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$

- **Associativity :** For  $a^{n_1}, a^{n_2}, a^{n_3} \in G$

$$a^{n_1} * (a^{n_2} * a^{n_3}) = a^{n_1} * a^{n_2+n_3} = a^{n_1+n_2+n_3}$$

$$(a^{n_1} * a^{n_2}) * a^{n_3} = a^{n_1+n_2} * a^{n_3} = a^{n_1+n_2+n_3}$$

- **Identity element** -  $a^n * a^e = a^n$

$$a^{n+e} = a^n \text{ implies } e=0 \text{ and } a^e = a^0 = 1 \text{ is the identity element}$$

- **Inverse element** – for  $a \in R, a^n * a^{n_1} = a^0 \Rightarrow n + n_1 = 0 \Rightarrow n_1 = -n$

$$a^{n_1} = a^{-n} \text{ is the inverse of } a^n$$



**5. For any group  $(G, *)$  if  $a^2 = e$  with  $a \neq e$ , then prove that  $G$  is abelian  
[Or, if every element of a group  $(G, *)$  is its own inverse, then  $G$  is abelian]**

**Proof:**

Let  $a^2 = e$ .

$$\text{Then } a^2 * a^{-1} = (a * a) * a^{-1} = e * a^{-1} = a^{-1}$$

$$a^2 * a^{-1} = a * (a * a^{-1}) = a * e = a$$

$$\text{implies } a = a^{-1}$$

$$\text{Then for any } a, b \in G, (a * b)^{-1} = a * b$$

$$b^{-1} * a^{-1} = a * b$$

$$b * a = a * b, \text{ } G \text{ is abelian.}$$

**6. Let  $(G,*)$  be a group. Prove that  $G$  is abelian if and only if  $(a * b)^2 = a^2 * b^2$**

**Proof:**

Let  $G$  be abelian,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Consider } (a * b)^2 &= (a * b) * (a * b) \\ &= a * (b * (a * b)) \text{ [Associativity]} \\ &= a * ((b * a) * b) \\ &= a * (a * b) * b \text{ [commutativity]} \\ &= (a * a) * (b * b) = a^2 * b^2\end{aligned}$$

Now , suppose  $(a * b)^2 = a^2 * b^2$

$$\begin{aligned}(a * b) * (a * b) &= (a * a) * (b * b) \\ a * (b * (a * b)) &= a * (a * (b * b)) \\ b * (a * b) &= a * (b * b) \\ (b * a) * b &= (a * b) * b \text{ [ Associativity]} \\ b * a &= a * b \text{ ----commutative.}\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $G$  is abelian.

- Exercises :

1. The set  $\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$  is an abelian group under matrix multiplication.
2. The set  $\{0,1,2,3,4\}$  is a finite abelian group of order 5 under addition modulo 5.
3. The set  $\{1,3,7,9\}$  is an abelian group under multiplication modulo 10.

## MODULE 4

- SUBGROUPS
- EXAMPLES FOR SUBGROUP
- CONDITIONS FOR SUBGROUP
- PROBLEMS ON SUBGROUPS

## Problems on subgroups

### 1. The intersection of two subgroups of a group $G$ is also a subgroup of $G$ .

#### Proof:

Let  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  be any two subgroups of  $G$ .  $H_1 \cap H_2$  is a non-empty set, since, at least the identity element  $e$  is common to both  $H_1$  and  $H_2$

Let  $a \in H_1 \cap H_2$ , then  $a \in H_1$  and  $a \in H_2$

Let  $b \in H_1 \cap H_2$ , then  $b \in H_1$  and  $b \in H_2$

$H_1$  is a subgroup of  $G$ ,  $a * b^{-1} \in H_1$   $a$  and  $b \in H$

$H_2$  is a subgroup of  $G$ ,  $a * b^{-1} \in H_2$   $a$  and  $b \in H$

$\therefore a * b^{-1} \in H_1 \cap H_2$  implies  $H_1 \cap H_2$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

## SUBGROUPS

If  $\{G, *\}$  is a group and  $H \subseteq G$  is a non-empty subset of  $G$ , called **subgroup** of  $G$ , if  $H$  itself forms a group .

### Theorem:

The necessary and sufficient condition for a non empty subset  $H$  of a group  $\{G, *\}$  to be a subgroup is, for every  $a, b \in H \Rightarrow a * b^{-1} \in H$ .

**2. Show that the set  $\{a + bi \in \mathbb{C} \mid a^2 + b^2 = 1\}$  is a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{C}, \cdot)$  where  $\cdot$  is the multiplication operator.**

**Proof:**

Let  $H = \{a + bi \in \mathbb{C} \mid a^2 + b^2 = 1\}$ , consider two elements  $x + iy, p + iq \in H$  such that  $x^2 + y^2 = 1, p^2 + q^2 = 1$  and the identity element of  $\mathbb{C}$  is  $1 + 0i$

Consider  $(x + iy)(p + iq)^{-1} = (x + iy)(p - iq) = xp + yq + i(yq - xp)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } (xp + yq)^2 + (yq - xp)^2 &= x^2p^2 + y^2q^2 + 2xpyq + y^2p^2 + x^2q^2 - 2ypxq \\ &= x^2(p^2 + q^2) + y^2(p^2 + q^2) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore (x + iy)(p + iq)^{-1} \in H$ ,  $H$  is a subgroup.





**3. Let  $G$  be an abelian group with identity  $e$ , prove that all elements  $x$  of  $G$  satisfying the equation  $x^2 = e$  form a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$**

**Proof:**

$$H = \{x \mid x^2 = e\}$$

$$e^2 = e \therefore \text{the identity element } e \text{ of } G \in H$$

$$x^2 = e$$

$$x^{-1} \cdot x^2 = x^{-1} \cdot e \Rightarrow x = x^{-1}$$

Hence, if  $x \in H, x^{-1} \in H$  [inverse exists]

Let  $x, y \in H$ , since  $G$  is abelian,  $xy = yx = y^{-1}x^{-1} = (xy)^{-1}$

$$\therefore (xy)^2 = e. \text{ i.e } xy \in H$$

Thus, if  $x, y \in H$ , we have  $xy \in H$  [closed]

Thus  $H$  is a subgroup.

**4. Union of two subgroups of  $(G, *)$  need not be a subgroup of  $(G, *)$ .**



## Module 5

- Cyclic groups
- Examples
- Properties
- Problems

## Cyclic group

A group  $(G, *)$  is said to be a **cyclic group** if there exists an element  $a \in G$  such that every element of  $G$  can be expressed as some integral power of  $a$ ,  **$a$  is called generator of  $G$ .**

We write  **$G = \langle a \rangle$**

### Examples :

1. Let  $G = \{1, -1, i, -i\}$  and  $G$  is a group under multiplication. It is **cyclic with the generator  $i$**

(i.e.)  **$G = \langle i \rangle$  or  $G = \langle -i \rangle$**

2. Let  $G = \{1, \omega, \omega^2\}$  is a **cyclic group under multiplication generated by  $\omega$ .  $\omega^2$  is also a generator.**

3.  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is a **cyclic group with generator 1. Note  $-1$  is also a generator.**

## Properties of cyclic groups

### 1. Every cyclic group is abelian

#### Proof:

Let  $(G,*)$  be a cyclic group with generator  $a$ . Let  $x, y \in G$  such that  $x = a^m, y = a^n$

$$x * y = a^m * a^n = a^{m+n} = a^{n+m} = a^n * a^m = y * x$$

Therefore  $(G,*)$  abelian.

### 2. Let $(G, *)$ be a cyclic group generated by $a$ , then $a^{-1}$ is also a generator of $G$ .

#### Proof:

Let  $(G, *)$  be a cyclic group generated by  $a$ , then for  $x \in G$  then  $x = a^n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$x = (a^{-1})^{-n}, -n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$\therefore a^{-1}$  is also a generator of  $G$ .

### 3. Any subgroup of a cyclic group is itself a cyclic group.

#### Proof :

Let  $(G, *)$  be a cyclic group generated by  $a$  and  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ .

if  $a^k \in H$  then  $a^{-k} \in H$ . Let  $m$  be the least positive integer such that  $a^m \in H$

we have to prove that  $H = (a^m)^n$ . Let  $c \in H$ .  $\therefore c \in G$

$$c = a^n \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Now  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there exists integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $n = mq + r$ ,  $0 \leq r < m$  by division algorithm.

$$\text{Now } c = a^n = a^{mq+r} = a^{mq} * a^r$$

$$a^r = a^{-mq} * c = (a^m)^{-q} * c \in H$$

Since  $c \in H$ ,  $(a^m)^{-q} \in H$  and  $H$  is a subgroup. But  $0 \leq r < m$  and  $m$  is the least positive integer such that  $a^m \in H$ . Therefore  $r = 0$

$$\therefore c = a^{mq} = (a^m)^q$$

Hence every element of  $H$  can be written as an integer power of  $a^m$ .  $\therefore H = (a^m)^n$  is a cyclic group.

**4. The order of a cyclic group is the same as the order of its generator.**

**5. A finite group of order  $n$  containing an element  $a$  of order  $n$  is cyclic.**



## Problems

### 1. Find the number of generators of a cyclic group of order 5.

Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  be a cyclic group of order 5. Then  $G = \{a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5 = e\}$ .

Since  $(1,5)=1, (2,5)=1, (3,5)=1, (4,5)=1$ .

The generators are  $a, a^2, a^3$  and  $a^4$ .

The number of generators is 4.

### 2. Find the number of generators of a cyclic group of order 8.

Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  be a cyclic group of order 8. Then  $G = \{a, a^2, a^3, a^4, a^5, a^6, a^7, a^8 = e\}$ .

Since  $(1,8)=1, (3,8)=1, (5,8)=1, (7,8)=1$ .

The generators are  $a, a^3, a^5$  and  $a^7$ .

The number of generators is 4.