

Algebra - MATH310

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Preface

Helo! I'm Jack :3.

I'm a student that needs to type out courses in order to make sure they properly understand them. So I put them out into the world! They might help you more than they help me :D. They are given as they are, with no guarantee of quality but guarantee of goodwill, bla bla bla. You know the gist of it.

Elements of notation

The group operation for a group G will usually be denoted \cdot_G , and its neutral element will be e_G . The index will be removed when it can be inferred from context.

For now, I'll denote $\mathbf{n} = \{1, \dots, n\}$, because it's clunky to type and it's my notes, god-damnit. I might change it back at the end.

Also sometimes I get caught up and I use the weird (though admittedly concise) notation:

“... consider an $0 \neq a \in A$ ”

which is to be read as “consider an a in A such that it is non zero”. Sorry for the confusion.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Week 1

Algebra rests on 3 basic principles, which are equivalent in nature.

- (i). **Induction:** Let $S \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that $0 \in S$ and $n \in S \Rightarrow n + 1 \in S$. Then, $S = \mathbb{N}$.
- (ii). **Well-ordering principle:** For any non-empty $A \subset \mathbb{N}$, there exists an element $a : \forall b \in A, a \leq b$.
- (iii). **Strong induction:** Let $S \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that $0 \in S$ and $\{0, \dots, n\} \in S \Rightarrow n + 1 \in S$. Then, $S = \mathbb{N}$.

It is well-established that these three principles are equivalent. Let us prove it.

Theorem 1.1. $I \Rightarrow WOP \Rightarrow SI \Rightarrow I$.

Proof. We will prove each induction separately.

- (i). $1. \Rightarrow 3.$ Let S be the construction from the strong induction definition, and let us consider $P(n) = \{0, 1, \dots, n\} \subset S$. We can prove it by induction:

Base: $0 \in S$ by construction $\Rightarrow \{0\} \subset S$.

Induction: Let us prove that $P(k) \Rightarrow P(k + 1)$ for some k .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \{0, 1, \dots, k\} \subset S & \text{ [by IH]} \Rightarrow k \in S & \text{[by construction]} \\
 & \Rightarrow k + 1 \in S & \text{[by definition]} \\
 & \Rightarrow \{0, 1, \dots, k, k + 1\} \in S
 \end{aligned}$$

Since it is hereditary and true for 0, it is true $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ by the induction principle.

Since $\{0, 1, \dots, n\} \subset \mathbb{N} \forall n$, then $S = \mathbb{N}$.

- (ii). $2 \Rightarrow 1.$ Suppose $S \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that $0 \in S$ and $n \in S \Rightarrow n + 1 \in S$. Consider $S' = \mathbb{N} \setminus S$, which we assume to be nonempty by absurd. By the well-ordering principle, we can pick a least element in $k \in S'$, which is by definition not in S . k cannot be zero, since $0 \in S$ by definition, but it can also not be non-zero, since $k \neq 0 \Rightarrow k = m + 1$ for some $m < k$ (therefore not in S'). $m \in S$, so by construction, $m + 1 = k \in S$ as well, which is a contradiction. S' has to be empty, so $S = \mathbb{N}$.
- (iii). $3 \Rightarrow 2.$ Done in a Problem Set, found in appendix A.

□

Chapter 2

Primes

2.1 Divisors and primes

Definition 2.1. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. We say that a *divides* b (notate: $a|b$) if there exists $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $b = ka$.

Definition 2.2. A number $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ is prime if $p > 1$ and the only numbers that divide it are itself and 1.

Theorem 2.3. Any $n > 1$ has a prime divisor.

Proof. Let $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n > 1 \wedge n \text{ has no prime divisors}\}$. We suppose S to be nonempty, meaning it contains a least element $k \in S$. k cannot be prime, since $k|k \forall k$. Therefore, it has to be true that $k = ab$ for $a, b < k \in \mathbb{N}$. Since k was the least element, then, $a \notin S$, meaning that there exists a prime p such that $a = pt$ for $t \in \mathbb{N}$. Therefore, $k = ab = ptb \Rightarrow p|k$, contradicting our construction of S . Therefore, S must be empty. \square

Theorem 2.4. Any $n > 1$ can be expressed by the product of primes.

This proof was done in a problem set, and can be found in the appendix.

Theorem 2.5. The prime number factorization of a number is unique.

Proof. Let $k = \prod_i^n p_i = \prod_j^m q_j$ two distinct prime sets. Suppose without loss of generality that $q_1 > p_1$ and let $t = (q_1 - p_1)q_2 \dots q_m > 0$. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} t &= (q_1 - p_1)q_2 \dots q_m \\ &= q_1 q_2 \dots q_m - p_1 q_2 \dots q_m \\ &= k - p_1 q_2 \dots q_m > 0 \Rightarrow p_1 | t \end{aligned}$$

We know that $p_1 \neq q_j$ for all j , so we focus on the only “weird” term:

$$\begin{aligned} (q_1 - p_1) &= sp_1 \\ \Rightarrow q_1 &= (s + 1)p_1 \end{aligned}$$

Which is a contradiction because q_1 is supposed to be prime. Therefore, the prime factorization is unique. \square

2.2 Integer arithmetic

Definition 2.6 (Euclidian division). *Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}, d \in \mathbb{Z}^*$. There exists a unique pair $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $n = qd + r$ with $0 < r < d$.*

Proof. **Existence.** Consider the set

$$S = \{n - kd\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \cap \mathbb{N} = \{n - kd, kd \leq n\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$$

We know that S is not empty, because:

- ▷ if $n \geq 0$, then we set $k = 0$, meaning $n \in S$
- ▷ if $n < 0$, then we set $k = |n| + 1$, meaning $kd > |n|$ and $n + kd \in S$.

Since it's never empty, we can pick the least element of S by means of the well-ordering principle. Let's call it r . Therefore, we have $r = n - kd$ for some k . To prove $r < d$, we assume towards absurdity that $r \geq d$, meaning that

$$n - (k + 1)d = n - kd - d = r - d \geq 0$$

meaning r wasn't minimal, which is a contradiction.

Uniqueness. Suppose $n = q_1d + r_1 = q_2d + r_2$. Without loss of generality, assume $q_1 > q_2$. Then:

$$(q_1 - q_2)d + r_1 = r_2 \geq d$$

Since r_1 and $q_1 - q_2$ are positive. This contradicts the definition of r_2 , and is therefore absurd. \square

Definition 2.7. *Let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$. We define the greatest common divisor (gcd) of two numbers as*

$$\gcd(a, b) = \max\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x|a \wedge x|b\}$$

Theorem 2.8. *For $n, q \in \mathbb{Z}, d \in \mathbb{Z}^*$, such that $n = qd + r$, it is always the case that:*

$$\gcd(n, d) = \gcd(d, r)$$

Proof. By inspection of the relationship $n = qd + r$, it's clear that if $x|n \wedge x|d$ then $x|r$, and if $x|d \wedge x|r$ then $x|n$. \square

Method This induces a special algorithm to compute the gcd of two numbers!
Let $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} d_1 &= q_1d_2 + d_3 \\ d_2 &= q_2d_3 + d_4 \\ &\dots \\ d_k &= q_kd_{k+1} + 0 \end{aligned}$$

The relationship $\gcd(d_{i-1}, d_i) = \gcd(d_i, d_{i+1})$ holds down the tree, meaning that by the end

$$\gcd(d_1, d_2) = d_{k+1}$$

Additionally, we have:

Corollary 2.9. *For any $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, there exist $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that*

$$\gcd(a, b) = xa + yb$$

This is obtained by running Euclid “up the tree”.

Example 1. *TODO*

Special consequence of corollary 2.9 is the following

Corollary 2.10. *If $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ are such that $d = \gcd(a, b)$, then the equation:*

$$c = ax + by$$

has solutions (x, y) if and only if $\exists k > 0 : c = kd$, and they can be found as the solutions in corollary 2.9 multiplied by k .

Final consequence of these facts is the well-known Bézout’s theorem.

Theorem 2.11. *Two numbers $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ are relatively prime if and only if the equation*

$$1 = ax + by$$

has integer solutions.

Definition 2.12. *For any $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, Euler’s totient function is defined as:*

$$\varphi(n) = |\{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} : \gcd(k, n) = 1\}|$$

meaning the number of positive integers less than n that are coprime to it.

Properties Properties of the totient function include:

- ▷ $\varphi(p) = p - 1$ for any prime p .
- ▷ $\varphi(pq) = (p - 1)(q - 1)$ for any pair of distinct primes p, q .
- ▷ More generally, $\varphi(mn) = \varphi(m)\varphi(n)$ for any m, n coprime.

Chapter 3

Groups

Week 2

3.1 Base definitions

3.1.1 Groups and cosets

Definition 3.1. A *group* is a set G with a binary operation $\cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G$, satisfying the following axioms:

- ▷ \cdot is *associative*: $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
- ▷ There exists a *neutral element* e such that $a \cdot e = e \cdot a = a \forall a \in G$.
- ▷ For any $a \in G$ there exists an *inverse* a^{-1} such that $a^{-1} \cdot a = a \cdot a^{-1} = e$.

We say that G is a *finite* group if $|G| < \infty$. In that case, we say that G is of *order* $|G|$. We say that G is *abelian* (or commutative) if $a \cdot b = b \cdot a \forall a, b \in G$.

Definition 3.2. $H \subset G$ is a *subgroup* if it contains the neutral element e_G and if it is closed with respect to \cdot_G , meaning that for every $a, b \in H$, $a \cdot b \in H$, and to inverses.

We can note that any group has a subgroup generated by a single element:

$$\langle g \rangle = \{e, g^1, g^2, \dots, g^{-1}, g^{-2}, \dots\}$$

Since $g^i \cdot g^j = g^{i+j}$ by definition of the group operation, this set is closed under it, meaning it is a subgroup.

Definition 3.3. If it exists, the minimal $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that $g^n = e$ is called the *order* of g . It is finite for every element in a finite group.

Definition 3.4. Let $H \subset G$ be a subgroup of G . The *left coset* of g with respect to H , denoted gH , is the following set:

$$gH = \{gh, h \in H\}$$

Theorem 3.5. Let $H \subset G$ finite. Then:

- (i). Two left-cosets xH, yH are either disjoint ($xH \cap yH = \emptyset$) or equal.

(ii). For any element $g \in G$ there exists a left coset of H such that $g \in H$.

(iii). $|xH| = |H| \forall x \in G$

Proof. We will prove each part separately:

(i). Suppose xH, yH are such that $xH \cap yH \neq \emptyset$. This means that there exist h_1, h_2 such that $xh_1 = yh_2$. Therefore,

$$x = yh_2h_1^{-1} = yh_3 \in yH \Rightarrow xh = yh_3h \forall h \in H$$

This means that if there exists an element of xH that is in yH , then every element in xH can be written as an element in yH , meaning they are equal.

(ii). For any $g \in G$, one can construct $gH = \{e, g, g^2, \dots\}$, which naturally contains g .

(iii). The mapping

$$\begin{aligned} f(h) : H &\rightarrow xH \\ h &\mapsto xh \end{aligned}$$

is surjective, by definition of $xH = \{xh, h \in H\}$, and it is also injective, since $xh_1 = yh_2 \Leftrightarrow h_1 = h_2$. This means it defines a bijection between H and xH , indicating they have the same cardinality.

Example Let $G = (\mathbb{Z}, +, 0), H = 3\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}$. The left coset of 0 with respect to H is :

$$\{0 + 3k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} = H = \{3 + 3k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$$

The left coset of 1 is

$$\{1 + 3k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{1, 4, 7, -2, \dots\}$$

□

Theorem 3.6 (Lagrange's theorem). *Let G be a finite group, $H \subset G$ a subgroup. Then, $|H|$ divides $|G|$.*

Proof. Each $g \in G$ belongs to a left coset of H , which are either disjoint or equal. This means:

$$\begin{aligned} G &= \bigcup_{i=0}^r x_i H && [\text{disjoint union of finite \# of sets}] \\ \Rightarrow |G| &= \sum_{i=0}^r |x_i H| \\ \Rightarrow |G| &= \sum_{i=0}^r |H| && [\text{since } |xH| = |H|] \\ \Rightarrow |G| &= r|H| \end{aligned}$$

with $r \in \mathbb{N}$, meaning that $|H|$ divides $|G|$.

□

Definition 3.7. The number of left cosets of H of G is called the *index* of G :

$$[G : H] = |G|/|H| \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

This means that the order of any element $g \in G$ (notated $\text{ord}(g)$) divides the order of the group $|G|$, since every element generates a subgroup $\langle g \rangle$. Additionally, it implies

Corollary 3.8. $g^{|G|} = (g^{\text{ord}(g)})^k = e^k = e$ for some k .

3.1.2 RSA and back to primes

Theorem 3.9 (Euler's theorem). Let $a, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. such that $\gcd(a, n) = 1$. Then,

$$a^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

Proof. Consider $G = (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, \cdot, 1)$. Then,

$$a^{\varphi(n)} = a^{|G|} \stackrel{3.8}{=} 1$$

□

Theorem 3.10 (Fermat's little theorem). Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, p prime such that p does not divide a . Then, $a^{p-1} = 1$.

Proof. Consider $G = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}, \cdot, 1)$. Then, $|G| = \varphi(p) = p - 1$. By Euler's theorem,

$$a^{\varphi(p)} = a^{(p-1)} = 1$$

□

RSA The RSA cryptosystem for message transmission works as follows:

- (i). Choose two distinct large primes p, q .
- (ii). Compute $m = pq \Rightarrow \varphi(m) = (p - 1)(q - 1)$.
- (iii). Choose $e \leq m$ an encryption key such that $\gcd(e, \varphi(m)) = 1$.
- (iv). Use Euclid's algorithm to determine d such that $ed - k\varphi(m) = 1$ for some integer k .
- (v). The encoding key is the pair (m, e) , and it can be published. To decode, you use the decoding key (m, d) which is to be kept private.

To send a message x to someone, you need their public pair (m, e) . You first compute $c \equiv x^e \pmod{m}$, which can be sent publicly. To decode, the person will use their private pair (m, d) , computing $x \equiv c^d \pmod{m} \equiv x^{ed} \pmod{m}$.

Why is it the case that $x^{ed} \equiv x \pmod{m}$? Well...

Week 3

Theorem 3.11. Let p, q be two distinct primes, and $m = pq$. Let $e : \gcd(e, \varphi(m)) = 1$, and let $d \in \mathbb{Z} : ed - k\varphi(m) = 1$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then,

$$x^{ed} \equiv x \pmod{m}$$

for all $x \in \mathbf{m}$.

Proof. If $x = pt$ for some t , then trivially $x \equiv x^{ed} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. If x is not divisible by p , then we can rewrite

$$x^{ed} = x^{k\varphi(m)+1}$$

By Fermat's theorem, we know that $x^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, meaning:

$$x^{k\varphi(m)} = x^{k(p-1)(q-1)} = (x^{p-1})^{k(q-1)} \equiv 1^{k(q-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow x^{k\varphi(m)+1} \equiv x \pmod{p}$$

Meaning in both cases $x^{ed} \equiv x \pmod{p}$. By a symmetric argument, the same is true \pmod{q} , allowing us to conclude

$$\begin{aligned} x^{ed} - x &\equiv 0 \pmod{pq} \\ &\equiv 0 \pmod{m} \\ \therefore x^{ed} &\equiv x \pmod{m} \end{aligned}$$

□

RSA As a quick example, let's consider an RSA system with the following characteristics:

$$p = 3, q = 11 \Rightarrow m = pq = 33, \varphi(m) = (p-1)(q-1) = 20$$

We choose $e = 7$ which is coprime with $\varphi(m)$. We compute d :

$$\begin{aligned} 20 &= 7 \cdot 2 + 6 \\ 7 &= 6 \cdot 1 + 1 \\ \Rightarrow 1 &= 7 - 6 \cdot 1 \\ &= 7 - (20 - 7 \cdot 2) \cdot 1 \\ &= \underbrace{7}_e \cdot \underbrace{3}_d - \underbrace{20}_{\varphi(m)} \end{aligned}$$

3.2 Homomorphisms

3.2.1 When the morphism is homo D:

Examples Recall a few examples of groups:

- (i). $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{[0], [1], \dots, [n-1]\}$ with regular modular addition and 0 as the neutral element.
- (ii). $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^* = \{a \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} : \gcd(a, n) = 1\}$ with modular multiplication and 1 as the neutral element. This is a group because

$$\begin{aligned} \gcd(a, n) = 1 &\Leftrightarrow \exists x, y \in \mathbb{Z} : ax + ny = 1 \\ &\Rightarrow [a] \cdot [x] + [n] \cdot [y] = [1] \pmod{n} \end{aligned}$$

These are two abelian!

(iii). The n -th complex roots of unity!

$$\sqrt[n]{1} = \{e^{\frac{2\pi ki}{n}}, k = 0, \dots, n-1\}$$

If you define $q = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{n}}$, then the group can be defined as the generated group:

$$\sqrt[n]{1} = \langle q \rangle = \{1, q, q^2, \dots, q^{n-1}\} \stackrel{not.}{=} C_n$$

C_n is defined as the cyclic group of order n , and it's easy to convince yourself of the fact that $(C_n, \cdot, 1)$ is “the same” as $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, +, 0)$, in the sense that they have similar enough structure that you could map one onto the other and back.

Definition 3.12. A map $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ between two groups is said to be a *group homomorphism* if

$$\phi(x \cdot_G y) = \phi(x) \cdot_H \phi(y) \quad \forall x, y \in G$$

This formally defines the “structure-maintaining” constraint on ϕ , and it also implies that $\phi(e_G) = e_H$ and $\phi(x^{-1}) = \phi(x)^{-1}$

Definition 3.13. A group homomorphism that can be inverted to a group homomorphism is called a *group isomorphism*. If $\phi : G \rightarrow H, \psi : H \rightarrow G$ are two group homomorphisms such that $\phi \circ \psi = \text{Id}_H, \psi \circ \phi = \text{Id}_G$, then G and H are said to be *isomorphic groups* (denoted $G \simeq H$).

Definition 3.14. A *group automorphism* is a group isomorphism from a group onto itself $\phi : G \rightarrow G$.

Example The map

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : C_n &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \\ q^i &\mapsto [i] \end{aligned}$$

is a bijection, with inverse

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^{-1} : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow C_n \\ [i] &\mapsto q^i \end{aligned}$$

and it respects the bounds on the group operations:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(q^i \cdot q^j) &= \phi(q^{i+j}) = [i+j] \\ \phi(q^i) \cdot \phi(q^j) &= [i] + [j] = [i+j] \end{aligned}$$

meaning that $C_n \simeq \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$.

3.2.2 Generators and Relations

We've seen that groups can be represented as a set of elements coupled with a binary operation on those elements. However, we can define another representation of a group,

based on **generators and relations**:

Definition 3.15. The set of **generators** of a group G is the minimal subset of elements of G such that any element of G can be written as a product of generators and their inverses.

Definition 3.16. A **relation** is an equation that is satisfied by every element of a group.

Definition 3.17. A **presentation of a group G in generators and relations** is an expression of the form :

$$G = \langle S | R \rangle$$

With S a set of generators, and R a set of relations on elements of S , such that any other relation on G follows from them.

Example For example, the cyclic group of order n , C_n , is generated by q , since every element can be written as q^k for some $0 < k < n$. Additionally, the relation $q^n = 1$ holds on q . This means that we can write:

$$C_n = \{1, q^1, \dots, q^{n-1}\} = \langle q | q^n = 1 \rangle$$

This representation allows us to define group homomorphisms in an easier way:

Proposition. Let $G = \langle S | R_1 = 1, \dots, R_k = 1 \rangle$, let H a group. We define a mapping $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ as follows:

- a) $\phi(s) \in H$ for every generator $s \in S$.
- b) $\phi(x_1 \cdot_G x_2) = \phi(x_1) \cdot_H \phi(x_2)$ for any $x_1, x_2 \in G$.

Then, ϕ is a group homomorphism if and only if R_1, \dots, R_k are satisfied for any $\phi(s)$.

Week 4

Definition 3.18. Let $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ a group homomorphism. The **kernel** of a group homomorphism is the set

$$\ker \phi = \{g \in G : \phi(g) = e_H\} \subset G$$

Proposition. Let $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ a group homomorphism. The kernel of ϕ is a subgroup of G .

Proof. Let $a, b \in \ker \phi$. Then:

- ▷ $\phi(e_G) = e_H$ by definition of a group homomorphism, meaning that $e_G \in \ker \phi$.
- ▷ $\phi(a \cdot b) = \phi(a) \cdot \phi(b) = e \cdot e = e$, meaning that $a, b \in \ker \phi \Rightarrow ab \in \ker \phi$.
- ▷ $\phi(a^{-1}) = (\phi(a))^{-1} = e^{-1} = e$, meaning that $a \in \ker \phi \Rightarrow a^{-1} \in \ker \phi$.

These three properties mean that $\ker \phi$ is a subgroup of G . □

Definition 3.19. Let $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ a group homomorphism. The **image** of ϕ is the set $\phi(G) \subset H$.

Proposition. Let $\phi : G \rightarrow H$ a group homomorphism. The image $\phi(G) = \{\phi(g)\}_{g \in G} \subset H$ is a subgroup in H .

Proof. Let $h_1, h_2 \in \phi(G)$. Then

- ▷ $\phi(e_G) = e_H$ by definition of a group homomorphism, meaning $e_h \in \phi(G)$.
- ▷ $h_1 h_2 = \phi(g_1) \cdot \phi(g_2) = \phi(g_1 g_2)$ for some $g_1, g_2 \in G$, meaning $h_1 h_2 \in \phi(G)$.
- ▷ $h_1^{-1} = \phi(g_1)^{-1} = \phi(g_1^{-1})$, meaning $h_1^{-1} \in \phi(G)$,

This means $\phi(G)$ is a subgroup of H . □

Definition 3.20. A subgroup $H \subset G$ is a *normal subgroup* (notated $H \triangleleft G$) if $\forall h, \forall g$, we have $ghg^{-1} \in H$.

For any group homomorphism $\phi : G \rightarrow H$, the kernel $\ker \phi$ is a normal subgroup of G . If you take any $g \in G, h \in H$, then we have:

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

meaning that $ghg^{-1} \in \ker \phi$ as well.

Definition 3.21. The group of rigid symmetries of a flat regular n -gon is called the *dihedral group of order n* , and it is denoted D_n .

About symmetries It is generated by a single rotation counterclockwise, leaving the shape self-similar but with vertices “shifted” by one to the left, and one “mirroring” of the shape per axis of symmetry.

For example, for a square, we have: TODO: ADD IMAGE

$$D_4 = \{1, r, r^2, r^3, r^4, s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4\}$$

with r a counterclockwise rotation and s_i a reflection across the i -th axis. The group operation is concatenation of action: it's easy to see how two consecutive rotations r might yield a double rotation ($r \cdot r = r^2$) and how concatenating a rotation and a symmetry can be defined as rs_i

This is group is not commutative: take a piece of paper, draw a labelled square, and you'll soon convince yourself of the fact that $rs \neq sr$, i.e. that a rotation followed by a mirroring does not yield the same result as the same mirroring followed by the same rotation.

In general, $|D_n| = 2n$: due to the nature of our moves, if after a move we have n “free” spots where vertex 1 could have ended up, after we choose that one, there's only two spots for vertex 2 (either right before or right after it) before defining a full state for the figure. This means $|D_n| \leq 2n$, and since we can lay out $2n$ elements, then $|D_n| = 2n$.

Playing around with the polygon shows the evident relation $srs = r^{-1}$, equivalent to $(sr)^2 = 1$. With this, we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} D_n &= \langle r, s | r^n = 1, s^2 = 1, srs = r^{-1} \rangle \\ &= \{1, r, r^2, \dots, r^{n-1}, s, sr, sr^2, \dots, sr^{n-1}\} \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to our relations, we know that we can write any product of moves under the form $s^a r^b$ for some a, b .

The two subgroups that are worth mentioning are:

- ▷ the group of rotations $R = \langle r \rangle = \{1, r, \dots, r^{n-1}\}$, which defines two cosets, the coset of rotations $1R$ and the coset of all symmetries $sR = \{s, sr, \dots, sr^{n-1}\}$. It is a normal subgroup, since $gr^k g^{-1} \in R$ no matter what g you use.
- ▷ the group of symmetries $K = \langle s \rangle = \{1, s\}$. This is not a normal subgroup, as $rsr^{-1} = sr^{-1}r^{-1} = sr^{-2} \notin K$.

3.3 Weirder groups

Proposition. Let $H \triangleleft G$. We define the product on left cosets of H as

$$(xH) \cdot (yH) = (xyH)$$

with eH the neutral element, and $x^{-1}H$ the inverse. This product is well-defined and it induces a group structure on the set of cosets.

Proof. We just have to check that the product does not depend on the choice of coset representatives: let $x' \in xH, y' \in yH$, let us check that $x'y' \in xyH$. We know that $x' = xh_1, y' = yh_2$ for some $h_1, h_2 \in H$. We can write:

$$x'y' = xh_1yh_2 = xy(y^{-1}h_1y)h_2 \stackrel{(*)}{=} xyh_3h_2 = xyh_4 \in xyH$$

where step $(*)$ is motivated by the fact that H is normal. Since $x'y' \in xyH$, the product is well defined. \square

Definition 3.22. The group of left cosets of $H \triangleleft G$ is called the quotient group G/H .

Example The cosets of $R \triangleleft D_n = \{1R, sR\}$ form the quotient group D_n/R , with the operations between them being the product of their representatives and the neutral element being the coset of 1 wrt R . The operations are

$$\begin{aligned} (1R)(1R) &= (1R) \\ (1R)(sR) &= (sR) \\ (sR)(1R) &= (sR) \\ (sR)(sR) &= (1R) \end{aligned}$$

This pattern seems a little familiar: this group is isomorphic to $C_2 = \langle t | t^2 = 1 \rangle$ (which are the two square roots of unity!), with the mapping function

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : R/D_n &\rightarrow C_2 \\ 1R &\mapsto 1 \\ sR &\mapsto t \end{aligned}$$

Proposition. In an abelian group G , every subgroup $H \subset G$ is normal.

This is barely a theorem, and is easily proven as $ghg^{-1} = hgg^{-1} = h \in H$ for any g .

Week 5

Definition 3.23. S_n is the group of *permutations of sets of n elements* \mathbf{n} .

Properties A permutation is an element of S_n , for which we'll see a few different representations; the group operation is composition between two elements; the neutral element is the trivial permutation that moves no element.

For an element $s \in S_n$, we denote si the index on which it sends the number $i \in \mathbf{n}$

In general, $|S_n| = n!$.

We introduce a new notation for elements of S_n . In the meantime, let us denote a permutation as two lists: the first is the input one, and the second is the result of applying the permutation once. On S_4 , the trivial permutation would look like:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Consider an arbitrary element $\rho \in S_n$, of order k , and construct $\langle \rho \rangle = \{1, \rho, \dots, \rho^{k-1}\}$. Take $x \in \mathbf{n}$: then we can construct the **orbit** $\text{Orb}_\rho x := \{x, \rho x, \dots\}$. This orbit is unique to each x : if there were two x_1, x_2 such that their orbits aren't disjoint, there would exist i, j such that

$$\rho^i x_1 = \rho^j x_2 \Leftrightarrow \rho^{i-j} x_1 = x_2 \Rightarrow x_2 \in \text{Orb}_\rho x_1$$

This implies that $\text{Orb}_\rho x_2 \subset \text{Orb}_\rho x_1$, and we can find $\text{Orb}_\rho x_1 \subset \text{Orb}_\rho x_2$ pretty symmetrically: this means $\text{Orb}_\rho x_1 = \text{Orb}_\rho x_2$.

Definition 3.24. We say that $\pi \in S_n$ is a **cycle** if it has a single non-trivial (containing more than a single element) orbit. The length of this non-trivial orbit is said to be the **length** of the cycle.

Therefore, we have that

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

is a cycle because $\text{Orb}_\rho 1 = \text{Orb}_\rho 2 = \{1, 2\}$ is its only nontrivial orbit, but

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

isn't because it has two nontrivial orbits, $\text{Orb}_\sigma 1 = \text{Orb}_\sigma 2 = \{1, 2\}$ and $\text{Orb}_\sigma 3 = \text{Orb}_\sigma 4 = \{3, 4\}$. A cycle of length k , will be notated as such:

$$\pi \in S_n : (x, \pi(x), \pi^2(x), \dots, \pi^{k-1}(x))$$

taking x an arbitrary element such that the orbit $\text{Orb}_\pi x$ is nontrivial.

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

would be notated as $\rho = (12)$.

This means that the cycle

$$(i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k)$$

is the permutation that sends $i_1 \mapsto i_2, i_2 \mapsto i_3, \dots, i_k \mapsto i_1$, and leaves every other element unchanged.

¹This follows from CS101. I didn't pass that class, but I hear it's where we saw it first.

Proposition. Let S_n be the group of permutations on \mathbf{n} . Then, disjoint cycles commute in S_n under composition.

Proof. Let π_1, π_2 two disjoint cycles of nontrivial orbits O_1, O_2 . This means that $O_1 \cap O_2 = \emptyset$. We are looking to prove $\pi_1\pi_2(x) = \pi_2\pi_1(x) \forall x \in \mathbf{n}$. To do that, we split the possible cases:

1. $x \notin O_1 \cup O_2$. Then, $\pi_1\pi_2(x) = \pi_2\pi_1(x) = x$ since x feels no action from either.
2. $x \in O_1 \Rightarrow x \notin O_2$. Then $\pi_1\pi_2(x) = \pi_1(x) = y \in O_1$, and $\pi_2\pi_1(x) = \pi_2(y) = y$.
2. $x \in O_2 \Rightarrow x \notin O_1$. Using a similar argument, the two expressions are equal.

Therefore, if two cycles in S_n are disjoint, then their product is commutative. \square

Method Computation of the product of two cycles is done right to left. Consider (12) and (23). We evaluate their product:

$$(12)(23)$$

- ▷ 3 is mapped to 2 by the second cycle, and 2 is mapped to 1 by the first: this means that 3 is mapped to 1.
- ▷ 2 is mapped to 3 by the second cycle, which is left untouched by the first, meaning 2 is mapped to 3.
- ▷ 1 is untouched by the second, and mapped to 2 by the first, meaning 1 is mapped to 2.

We see a single apparent cycle within this mapping, meaning that the result is the nontrivial (123).

Consider now (1435)(326): we describe it more concisely, but the idea is the same:

$$\begin{aligned} 6 &\rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 5; 2 \rightarrow 6; 3 \rightarrow 2; \\ 5 &\rightarrow 1; 4 \rightarrow 3; 1 \rightarrow 4 \end{aligned}$$

We pick any number to start : (143265).

Last example: consider (1435)(321). Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 5; 2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4; 3 \rightarrow 2 \\ 4 &\rightarrow 3; 5 \rightarrow 1 \end{aligned}$$

Picking a random start, we try proceeding. If we hit a cycle before we're done, that means that there is still at least a number we haven't hit: we start from it, and keep going. In this case (15)(243).

Theorem 3.25 (Unproven²). Any permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ can be written as the product of disjoint cycles, uniquely, up to the order of cycles used.

²Meaning that it will not be proven here. you can find the proof in the teacher's summaries.

Definition 3.26. The notation of $\sigma \in S_n$ as the product of disjoint cycles is called the *cycle notation* of σ . The lengths of these disjoint cycles is called the *cycle type* of σ .

Proposition. The cycle notation for $\pi\rho\pi^{-1}$ can be obtained from the cycle notation for ρ by replacing each i in ρ with $\pi(i)$.

Proof. We have $\pi\rho\pi^{-1}(\pi(x)) = \pi\rho\pi^{-1}\pi(x) = \pi\rho(x)$. Now, we suppose ρ is a cycle:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \rho : i \rightarrow \rho(i) & \rho : (i, \rho(i), \rho^2(i), \dots) \\ \pi\rho\pi^{-1} : \pi(i) \rightarrow \pi\rho(i) & \pi\rho\pi^{-1} : (\pi(i), \pi\rho(i), \dots) \end{array}$$

□

Definition 3.27. $s \in S_n$ is a *transposition* if it is a two-cycle, of the form (ij) .

Proposition. Every k -cycle can be written as the product of $(k - 1)$ transpositions.

Proof. We prove this by induction:

Base: $k = 2$ is trivial, $k = 3$ is unpacked easily as $(123) = (13)(12)$.

Induction: Suppose $(123\dots k) = (1k)\dots(13)(12)$. We consider :

$$(1 \ k+1)(123\dots k) \stackrel{(1)}{=} (123\dots k \ k+1) \stackrel{(2)}{=} (1k)\dots(13)(12)$$

where we obtain (1) by direct computation of the product and (2) by direct application of the induction hypothesis.

□

As a direct result of this, we can say that S_n is generated by the transpositions $\{(ij)\}_{i < j}$: since every permutation is the product of disjoint cycles, and every cycle is the product of transpositions, then every permutation is the product of transpositions, which might not be disjoint.

Theorem 3.28. The product of an odd number of transposition cannot be equal to the product of an even number of transpositions.

Proof. The proof of this can be found by considering the number of inversions present after a given permutation. Consider the state after the permutation σ as:

$$s_1 s_2 \dots i m_1 m_2 \dots m_k \dots k e_1 e_2 \dots$$

Now, consider $(ij)\sigma$ and any m_k .

- ▷ If $i < m_k, j < m_k$ or $m_k < i, m_k < j$, then swapping i and j does not contribute to the amount of inversions $\Rightarrow \pm 0$ inversions;
- ▷ If $i < m_k < j$ or $j < m_k < i$, then swapping i and j changes the inversion state between i and m_k , and between m_k and $j \Rightarrow \pm 2$ inversions.

Additionally, since $i \neq j$, swapping them adds or removes an inversion, as well, in such a way that in total, an additional transposition changes the number of inversions by 1.

Therefore, it is impossible to obtain the same number with $2k$ and $2k' + 1$ transpositions, no matter the values of $k, k' \in \mathbb{N}$.

□

Definition 3.29. We use the number of inversions in a given permutation to define its *sign* as

$$\text{sgn } \sigma = (-1)^{\text{inv } \sigma} = \begin{cases} 1 & , \sigma \text{ has an even number of inversions} \\ -1 & , \sigma \text{ has an odd number of inversions} \end{cases}$$

This can easily be shown to verify $\text{sgn}(\sigma\tau) = \text{sgn}(\sigma)\text{sgn}(\tau)$...: $\text{sgn} : S_n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is a group homomorphism! Recalling that the kernel of an homomorphism is a subgroup, we get that

$$A_n = \ker \text{sgn} \triangleleft S_n = \{\sigma \in S_n : \text{inv } \sigma \text{ is even}\}$$

A_n is called the *alternating group*, and it is of size $n!/2$ (can be shown by Lagrange.)

Proposition. Let $g, h \in S_n$, consider $ghg^{-1} \in S_n$. If h is the product of disjoint cycles of lengths $\{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n\}$, then ghg^{-1} is the product of disjoint cycles of same length set. Therefore, any element that is the product of disjoint cycles of given lengths can be obtained from another of same lengths by conjugation with another element.

Proof. Let us consider a single cycle ρ_l of length l . Then, we have that

$$\rho_l = (i_1 i_2 \dots i_l) \Rightarrow g\rho_l g^{-1} = (g(i_1) \dots g(i_l))$$

is a cycle of the same length! This being said, we consider h as the product of disjoint cycles, with their relative lengths:

$$h = \rho_{l_1} \dots \rho_{l_r} \Rightarrow ghg^{-1} = (g\rho_{l_1} g^{-1}) \dots (g\rho_{l_r} g^{-1}) = \gamma_{l_1} \dots \gamma_{l_r}$$

where we introduce neutral elements in the product under the form $e = gg^{-1}$. Therefore, we see here that the action is obtained by mapping every element in every cycle of h to the corresponding element in the new cycles γ . \square

We can use conjugates to define classes:

Definition 3.30. The *conjugacy class* of h , $\{ghg^{-1}\}_{g \in S_n}$ is the set of all elements conjugated to h in S_n . More informally, as we've seen, it's the set of all elements that have the same cycle type as h .

Conclusion This allows us to more formally define the idea that S_n is the disjoint union of the classes of elements that have same cycle type. These conjugacy classes are in bijection with the partitions of the integer n , of the form:

$$\{\{i_1, \dots, i_k\} : n = i_1 + \dots + i_k, i_1 \geq \dots \geq i_k\}$$

with $\{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$ corresponding to the cycle lengths of the elements in the class. For example, take the partitions of the number 4, matched with the corresponding

elements in S_4 :

$$\begin{aligned}\{4\} &\rightarrow \{(1234), (2143), \dots\} \\ \{3, 1\} &\rightarrow \{(123), (234), \dots\} \\ \{2, 2\} &\rightarrow \{(12)(34), (24)(13), \dots\} \\ \{2, 1, 1\} &\rightarrow \{(12), (13), (32), \dots\} \\ \{1, 1, 1, 1\} &\rightarrow \{e\}\end{aligned}$$

3.4 Actions of groups on sets

3.4.1 Orbits and stabilizers

Definition 3.31. Let a finite group G , and a finite set E . We say that G acts on E by *permutations* if one can define the product $g \cdot x$ for any $g \in G, x \in E$ in such a way that

$$\begin{aligned}e \cdot x &= x \quad \forall x \in E \\ g_1 g_2 \cdot x &= g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot x) \quad \forall g_1, g_2 \in G, x \in E\end{aligned}$$

We also define the *orbit* of $x \in E$ under the action of G as the subset

$$\text{Orb}_x = \{g \cdot x\}_{g \in G} \subset E$$

Proposition. Let E a finite set, $x, y \in E$, G a finite group. Then,

$$\text{Orb}_x = \text{Orb}_y \quad \text{ou} \quad \text{Orb}_x \cap \text{Orb}_y = \emptyset$$

Proof of this was done in a problem set, and can be found in the appendix.

Since every element of E belongs to some orbit (at the very least Orb_x), we can write

$$E = \bigcup_{i=0}^k \text{Orb}_{x_i}$$

with a set of orbit representatives $\{x_i\}_{i=0}^k$. If we consider the case of G acting on itself by conjugation, then the orbit of h in G is the conjugacy class $C_h = \{ghg^{-1}\}_{g \in G}$. This yields, similarly,

$$G = \bigcup_{i=0}^k C_{h_i}$$

which is not very interesting group for an abelian group as $C_h = ghg^{-1}_{g \in G} = \{gg^{-1}h\}_{g \in G} = \{h\}$, meaning they are all disjoint as they contain a single element.

Definition 3.32. Let G, E be a finite group and a finite set, respectively, such that G acts on E . The *stabilizer* of x is the set:

$$\text{Stab}_x = \{g \in G : g \cdot x = x\}$$

It is a subgroup of G .

Theorem 3.33 (Orbit-Stabilizer Theorem). *Let G be a finite group acting on E a finite set, let $x \in E$. Then,*

$$|\text{Orb}_x| = [G : \text{Stab}_x] = |G|/|\text{Stab}_x|$$

Proof. Consider the left cosets with respect to $H = \text{Stab}_x$. We have a bijection μ between $gH_{g \in G}$ and Orb_x . We define it as:

$$\mu : gH \mapsto g \cdot x$$

This mapping is surjective, because every g appears in a left coset of H . To prove it is injective, we consider two g, f such that $\mu(gH) = \mu(fH) \in \text{Orb}_x$:

$$g \cdot x = f \cdot x \Rightarrow f^{-1}g \cdot x = x \Rightarrow f^{-1}g \in \text{Stab}_x \Rightarrow f^{-1}gH \subset H$$

This means $gH \subset fH$. Symmetrically, we establish $fH \subset gH$, meaning $fH = gH$. This implies μ is injective, meaning that the number of left cosets of H is the same as the number of elements in the orbit of x . Using the formula for the number of left cosets, we get

$$|\text{Orb}_x| = \# \text{ of left } H\text{-cosets} = [G : H] = [G : \text{Stab}_x]$$

□

Definition 3.34. The *center* of a group is the set of all elements that commute with every $g \in G$:

$$\begin{aligned} Z(G) &= \{x \in G : g \cdot x = x \cdot g \ \forall g \in G\} \\ &= \{x \in G : g \cdot x \cdot g^{-1} = x \ \forall g \in G\} \end{aligned}$$

It is also the set of all 1-element conjugacy classes of G .

Theorem 3.35. Using the center, we define the *class equation of G* , for a finite group G :

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=0}^r |C_{x_i}| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{i=0}^r [G : G_{x_i}]$$

Where G_{x_i} is the stabilizer of x_i with respect to conjugation.

Proof. We know that G is the disjoint union of its conjugacy classes

$$\begin{aligned} |G| &= \sum_{i=0}^m |C_{x_i}| = \underbrace{\sum_{i=0}^r |C_{x_i}|}_{\text{conj. cl. of size 1}} + \underbrace{\sum_{j=0}^s |C_{x_j}|}_{\text{conj. cl. of size } \neq 1} \\ \Rightarrow |G| &= |Z(G)| + \sum_{j=0}^s |C_{x_j}| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{j=0}^s [G : G_{x_j}] \end{aligned}$$

Since the size of the conjugacy class is the number of left cosets of stabilizer subgroup. □

Application A group of order p^n with p prime has nontrivial center.

Proof.

$$|G| = |Z(G)| + \sum_{j=0}^s |[G : G_{x_i}]|$$

where $|G| = p^n$, which is divisible by p , and $[G : G_{x_i}] = |G|/|G_{x_i}| = p^n/|G_{x_i}| > 1$, meaning it is divisible by p as well. This implies $|Z(G)|$ is also divisible by p , and since it contains e , it cannot be 0. Therefore, it has to be a nontrivial multiple of p . \square

Week 7

3.5 Classifying finite abelian groups

Finite groups split into two categories:

	Abelian	Non-Abelian
Definition	$ab = ba \ \forall a, b \in G$	$\exists a, b \in G : ab \neq ba$
Normal Subgroups	All subgroups	$H \triangleleft G : gHg^{-1} \in H \ \forall g \in G$
Conjugacy classes	$ C_i = 1 \ \forall C_i$	$\exists C_i : C_i > 1$
Class equation	$ G = Z(G) $	$ G = Z(G) + \sum_{i < r} C_i $
Examples	All cyclic groups C_n	D_n and S_n .

That being said:

Theorem 3.36 (Cauchy). *Let G be a finite group such that a prime p divides its order $|G|$. Then, G has an element of order p .*

Proof. We will prove this in the case where G is an abelian group. The other case is done in a problem set, and can be found in the appendix.

If G is abelian, then let G the counterexample of smallest order. Consider a nontrivial element $g \in G$, such that its order $k = \text{ord}(g)$ is not divisible by p . If it was, we would have $g^{kp} = 1 \Rightarrow g^k$ has order p .

Next, we consider the normal subgroup $\langle g \rangle$, which contains k elements. Looking at the quotient group, we have:

$$G/\langle g \rangle \Rightarrow p \text{ divides } |G/\langle g \rangle| = |G|/|g| < |G|$$

This means that there exists an element $h \in G/\langle g \rangle$ such that its order in the quotient group is p . Since $h \in \langle g \rangle$, then $h^p = g^s$ for some s . Let i be the order of g^s in G :

$$(h^p)^k = (g^s)^k = 1$$

meaning that the order of $h^k \in G$ is p , contradicting our assumptions. \square

Definition 3.37. G is *simple* if it has no proper nontrivial normal subgroup.

Corollary 3.38. *If G is simple, finite and abelian, then it is isomorphic to a cyclic group of prime order.*

Proof. Consider $|G| = p_1^{n_1} \dots p_k^{n_k}$. By Cauchy's theorem, there has to be an element of order p_1 within G . Let's call it g . therefore, $\langle g \rangle$ is a normal subgroup of G of size p_1 .

$\langle g \rangle$ is a proper subgroup only if there exists an element in G that is not in $\langle g \rangle$, meaning that G is not simple if and only if $|G| > |\langle g \rangle| = p_1$. This means that for G to be simple it has to be of order p_i .

Therefore, $G = \langle g \rangle = C_p$. □

3.5.1 Direct product on groups

Definition 3.39. Let G, H two groups. Then, their *direct product* is the set of pairs $G \times H = \{(g, h) : g \in G, h \in H\}$, with the multiplication operation defined such that

$$(g_1, h_1)(g_2, h_2) = (g_1 g_2, h_1 h_2)$$

$$(e_G, e_H) \text{ is the neutral element}$$

$$(g_1^{-1}, h_1^{-1})(g_1, h_1) = (e_G, e_H)$$

This means that it satisfies the group axioms.

Examples Let's consider the cyclic groups, for now. Let $C_2 = \langle a | a^2 = 1 \rangle, C_3 = \langle b | b^3 = 1 \rangle$. Then,

$$C_2 \times C_3 = \{(g, h) : g \in C_2, h \in C_3\} = \{(1, 1), (a, 1), (1, b), (1, b^2), (a, b), (a, b^2)\}$$

In this group, $t = (a, b)$ is a generator, and it is of order 6. However, it is not always the case that $C_n \times C_m \simeq C_{nm}$: take $C_2 \times C_2 = \{(1, 1), (a, 1), (1, b), (a, b)\}$, where every nontrivial element has order 2. This means that it cannot be isomorphic to C_4 .

To be more general: let $(a, b) \in C_n \times C_m$, such that $\text{ord}(a) = n, \text{ord}(b) = m$. Then, we know that

$$(a, b)^s = (a^s, b^s) = (1, 1) \Rightarrow \text{ord}(a) | s, \text{ord}(b) | s \Rightarrow s = \text{lcm}(n, m)$$

Proposition. $C_n \times C_m \simeq C_{nm} \Leftrightarrow \text{gcd}(n, m) = 1$. In that case, $C_n \times C_m$ is cyclic.

Proof. If $\text{gcd}(n, m) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \text{lcm}(n, m) = nm = \text{ord}((a, b))$. This implies $|C_n \times C_m| = nm \Rightarrow C_n \times C_m \simeq C_{nm}$ is cyclic. If $\text{gcd}(n, m) = d > 1$, then $\text{lcm}(n, m) = \frac{nm}{d} = \text{ord}((a, b)) < nm$. Therefore, There is no element of order nm in $C_n \times C_m$, meaning that it is not a cyclic group □

Corollary 3.40. Let C_n a cyclic group such that $n = p_1^{k_1} \dots p_r^{k_r}$ is the prime factorization of n . Then,

$$C_n \simeq C_{p_1^{k_1}} \times \dots \times C_{p_r^{k_r}}$$

Proof. $C_n \simeq C_{p_1^{k_1}} \times C_m$, with $m = p_2^{k_2} \times \dots \times p_r^{k_r}$, by means of the previous proposition, since $\text{gcd}(p_1^{k_1}, m) = 1$ by definition. This can be repeated on C_m to get the decomposition. □

Properties Some properties of the direct product include:

- a $G \times H \simeq H \times G$ through the isomorphism $\phi : (g, h) \mapsto (h, g)$.
- b $H, G \subset G \times H$, since $\{(1, h), h \in H\} \simeq H \subset G \times H$.
- c $G \times H$ is abelian if and only if H, G are abelian.
- d If $G \supset H, K$ such that
 - ▷ $H \cap K = \{e\}$
 - ▷ $\forall h \in H, k \in K : hk = kh$
 - ▷ $HK = \{hk\}_{h \in H, k \in K} = G$

then $G \simeq H \times K$, through the map $\phi : H \times K \rightarrow G : \phi(k, h) = hk$.

This induces a theorem to classify finite abelian groups.

Theorem 3.41. *Let G be a finite abelian group. Then, G is isomorphic to a direct product of cyclic groups of prime power orders.*

$$G \simeq C_{p_1^{n_1}} \times \dots \times C_{p_m^{n_m}}$$

With $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^m$ m primes not necessarily distinct. This presentation is unique up to the order of factors.

Proof. Let $G = \langle g_1, \dots, g_k | R_1, \dots, R_l \rangle$, with $\{g_i\}_{i=1}^k$ the generators and $\{R_i\}_{i=1}^l$ the relations. The relations are of the form:

$$\begin{cases} R_1 : g_1^{n_{11}} g_2^{n_{12}} \dots g_k^{n_{1k}} = 1 \\ \vdots \\ R_l : g_1^{n_{l1}} g_2^{n_{l2}} \dots g_k^{n_{lk}} = 1 \end{cases}$$

which we can encode in a rectangular, $\mathbb{Z}^{l \times k}$ matrix :

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_{11} & \dots & n_{1k} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ n_{l1} & \dots & n_{lk} \end{pmatrix}$$

On which we can do the following operations without changing the group G :

- ▷ Adding integer multiples of one row to another: since each line evaluates to 1, then adding a line to another does not change its value, but it does change the coefficients.

$$\begin{cases} x^a y^b = 1 \\ x^d = 1 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ d & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a+d & b \\ d & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x^{a+d} y^b = x^a x^d y^b = x^a y^b = 1 \\ x^d = 1 \end{cases}$$

- ▷ Adding integer multiples of one column to another: column addition is equivalent to changing the generators in the representation of G .
- ▷ Swapping two columns or rows: equivalent to reordering the generators.

Applying these operations, one can reduce $|n_{11}|$ as much as possible, meaning to the gcd of all elements in the first row and column³. Using this we can rewrite the original matrix as :

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_{11} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & n_{22} & \dots & n_{2k} \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & n_{l2} & \dots & n_{lk} \end{pmatrix}$$

repeating on submatrices, we end up on the following matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_{11} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & n_{22} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & n_{rr} \end{pmatrix}, r = \min l, k$$

which defines the same group, as

$$G = \langle g_1 \dots g_r | g_1^{n_{11}} = 1, \dots, g_r^{n_{rr}} = 1 \rangle$$

which means that $G_i = \langle g_i \rangle$ are cyclic subgroups of G .

Moreover, for any $i \neq j$, $G_i \cap G_j = \{1\}$ if $i \neq j$, $g_i g_j = g_j g_i$ since G is abelian, and $\{h_1 \dots h_r\} = G$, meaning that by property d,

$$G \simeq C_{n_{11}} \times C_{n_{22}} \times \dots \times C_{n_{rr}}$$

Each $C_{n_{ii}}$ can be rewritten as its prime factorization, as we know. Therefore, expanding it out:

$$G \simeq C_{p_1^{n_1}} \times \dots \times C_{p_m^{n_m}}$$

Which is what we wanted to prove. □

Corollary 3.42. *If $|G| = p^n$, with p a prime, then G is the direct product of cyclic groups*

$$G \simeq C_{p^{i_1}} \times \dots \times C_{p^{i_k}}$$

such that $p^{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_k} = p^n$. Therefore, all possible abelian groups of order p^n are in bijection with the partitions of n .

Example Take $p = 2, n = 3, G$ abelian:

$$|G| = 8 = 2^3; \text{Partitions of } 3 : (3), (2, 1), (1, 1, 1)$$

This is therefore isomorphic to $G_1 \simeq C_{2^3}, G_2 \simeq C_{2^2} \times C_2, G_3, G_3 \simeq C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$, which are all pairwise nonisomorphic.

Definition 3.43. *The numbers $(p_1^{n_1}, \dots, p_m^{n_m})$ are called the **elementary divisors** of G .*

³This is due to the fact that all of the operations end up looking like repeated addition and subtraction, which are multiplication and division. The only way to minimize an element is therefore by ensuring it divides every other element. I think? idk it's a little handwavy but it works

Theorem 3.44. A finite abelian group $G \simeq C_{d_1} \times \dots \times C_{d_n}$, with C_{d_i} cyclic for any i , and $d_n | d_{n-1}, \dots, d_2 | d_1$, $|G| = d_1 d_2 \dots d_n$. The numbers (d_1, \dots, d_n) are called the *invariant factors* of G . They determine it uniquely.

Method The algorithm to determine all abelian groups of a given order is as follows:

- (i). Decompose $|G| = n = \prod_j p_j^{k_j}$ into its prime factors, and find partitions for each power. For each partition of k_i , there is a unique group of order $p_i^{k_i}$:

$$k_i = a_1 + \dots + a_i \Rightarrow C_{p_i^{a_1}} \times C_{p_i^{a_i}}$$

The possible groups are the direct products of all possible groups of orders $p_i^{k_i}$. Therefore, we get G in the form of a direct product of cyclic groups of prime power orders, which we call the *elementary divisors* of G .

- (ii). To find the decomposition of G in terms of the *invariant factors*, for each group above we write $C_{p_i^{a_i}}$ with the same p_i in the same line, in decreasing order of a_i . Then, each column gives a direct product of cyclic groups with coprime orders \Rightarrow the direct product of each column is cyclic!

The orders of these groups (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n) are called the *invariant factors* of G . By construction, $d_n | d_{n-1} | \dots | d_1$.

Therefore, it is possible to determine an abelian group in two different representations.

Example For example, we can consider $|G| = 72 = 2^3 3^2$. Then, $p_1 = 2, p_2 = 3$, and we have the following partitions of the exponents:

$$\begin{aligned} 3 &: (3), (2, 1), (1, 1, 1) \\ 2 &: (2), (1, 1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we consider the following splits, using products of vertically aligned items⁴:

$C_{2^3} \times$	$C_{2^3} \times$	$C_{2^2} \times C_2 \times$	$C_{2^2} \times C_2 \times$	$C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2 \times$	$C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$
C_{3^2}	$C_3 \times C_3$	C_{3^2}	$C_3 \times C_3$	C_{3^2}	$C_3 \times C_3$
C_{72}	$C_{24} \times C_3$	$C_{36} \times C_2$	$C_{12} \times C_6$	$C_{18} \times C_2 \times C_2$	$C_6 \times C_6 \times C_2$

The elementary divisors correspond to the partitions of the powers, so they are :

$$\{(2^3, 3^2), (2^3, 3, 3), (2^2, 2, 3^2), (2^2, 2, 3, 3), (2, 2, 2, 3^2), (2, 2, 2, 3, 3)\}$$

and the invariant factors are given by the powers of this awful construction, so

$$\{(72), (24, 3), (36, 2), (12, 6), (18, 2, 2), (6, 6, 2)\}$$

⁴There was, physically, no better way of having this fit together. Sorry.

Chapter 4

Rings and fields

Week 8

4.1 F*!king finally!

Definition 4.1. A *ring* is a set A with two operations defined on it: $+$ and \cdot , in such a way that

- (i). A is an abelian group with respect to $+$, containing a neutral element 0 .
- (ii). \cdot is associative: $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$, et il $\exists 1 \in A : 1 \cdot a = a \cdot 1$.
- (iii). \cdot is both left- and right-distributive over $+$: $a \cdot (b + c) = ab + ac$, $(a + b) \cdot c = ac + bc$.

Examples Let us consider some examples:

- ▷ $\mathbb{Z} : \langle +, \cdot, 0, 1 \rangle$ is a ring! Though it doesn't contain any multiplicative inverses, it fits the definitions nicely.
- ▷ $A = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{2}] := \{a + b\sqrt{2}, a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ contains 0 and 1 . Additionally:

$$\begin{aligned}(a + b\sqrt{2}) + (c + d\sqrt{2}) &= (a + c) + (b + d)\sqrt{2} \in A \\ -a - b\sqrt{2} &\in A \\ (a + b\sqrt{2})(c + d\sqrt{2}) &= ac + 2bd + \sqrt{2}(ad + bc) \in A\end{aligned}$$

- ▷ $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}]$ is a ring. Proof of this is left as an exercise to the reader.

In this course, we will consider only *commutative rings*, such that $ab = ba \forall a, b \in A$.

Definition 4.2. $a \in A$ is a *zero divisor* if there exists an $0 \neq x \in A$ such that $ax = 0$.

Most rings we are used to do not have any nontrivial zero divisors. Let us consider another one:

Example Consider:

$$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \{[0], [1], \dots, [n-1]\}$$

It is isomorphic to the cyclic group of order n , meaning it is an abelian group

with respect to addition. \cdot is associative, and $[1]$ is its neutral element wrt multiplication.

Consider now an element $[a] \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$.

▷ If $\gcd(a, n) = d > 1$, then we can write

$$[a] \cdot \left[\frac{n}{d}\right] = [1]$$

meaning that a is a nontrivial zero divisor of the ring.

▷ If a, n are coprime, then by Bezout's theorem

$$\exists x, y : ax + ny = 1 \Rightarrow [a][x] = [1] \Rightarrow [a]^{-1} = [x]$$

Additionally, if we consider $[b] : [b] \cdot [a] = 0$, then we have

$$[b] \cdot [a] = [0] \Rightarrow [b] \cdot [a] \cdot [x] = [0] \Rightarrow [b] \cdot [1] = [0] \Rightarrow [b] = [0]$$

Meaning that $[a]$ cannot be a zero divisor of the ring.

This means that an element of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is either invertible, or a zero divisor.

Definition 4.3. A ring that has no nontrivial zero divisors is called an *integral domain*.

Definition 4.4. A commutative ring where all nonzero elements have a multiplicative inverse is called a *field*. $\forall 0 \neq a \in A \exists a^{-1} \in A : aa^{-1} = a^{-1}a = 1$

Corollary 4.5. $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ either has nontrivial zero divisors ($\Leftrightarrow n$ is not prime) or it is a field and an integral domain ($\Leftrightarrow n = p$ for some prime p).

Proof. If it has no nontrivial zero divisors, that means that there is no $[a] \in \{[1], \dots, [n-1]\}$ such that $\gcd(a, n) > 1$. Therefore, n has no divisors other than itself and 1, and it must be a prime p by definition. If that's the case, then $\forall [b] \neq 0, \gcd(b, p) = 1 \Rightarrow [b]$ has a multiplicative inverse, meaning that $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is a field. \square

Proposition. A field is an integral domain. An invertible element is not a zero divisor.

Proof. Suppose $ab = 0$ in a field A such that $a \neq 0$. This means that there exists a $a^{-1} \in A$ such that $aa^{-1} = 1$. This means that :

$$ab = 0 \Leftrightarrow a^{-1}ab = a^{-1} \cdot 0 \tag{4.1}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 1 \cdot b = 0 \tag{4.2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow b = 0 \tag{4.3}$$

meaning a cannot be a zero divisor. This means that if all non-zero elements in A are invertible, then A cannot have nontrivial zero divisors. This is equivalent to saying that if A is a field, then it is an integral domain, proving our proposition. \square

Remark The converse isn't true! \mathbb{Z} is an integral domain, but $2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ does not have a multiplicative inverse.

This allows the following characterization:

$$\text{Fields} \subset \text{Integral Domains} \subset \text{Commutative Rings}$$

And for the following statements on $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$:

$$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \text{ integral domain} \Leftrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \text{ field} \Leftrightarrow n = p \text{ prime}$$

4.2 Less than ideal

Definition 4.6. Let A be a commutative ring. $I \subset A$ is an *ideal* if it has the following properties:

- ▷ it is a subgroup with respect to $+$, i.e: it contains 0 , $-a$ for any $a \in I$, and it is closed wrt $+$.
- ▷ $\forall x \in A, a \in I : x \cdot a \in I$.

Examples Let's have a look at some examples

- ▷ $\{0\} \subset A, A \subset A$ are ideals for any commutative ring A . That is not very interesting.
- ▷ Consider \mathbb{Z} . Then, $2\mathbb{Z} = \{2a, a \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is an ideal! It's easy to verify it is a subgroup for $+$, and we have that, for any $x \in \mathbb{Z}, 2a \cdot x \in 2\mathbb{Z}$. This is true for any $d \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Definition 4.7. We say that an ideal $I \subset A$ is *proper* if $I \neq A$, and *nontrivial* if $I \neq 0$.

Properties Let $I, J \subset A$ two ideals. Then:

- (i) if $1 \in I$, then $I = A$.

This is due to the properties of ideals: $\forall x \in A, 1 \cdot x \in I \Rightarrow x \in I \Rightarrow I = A$

- (ii) $I \cap J$ is an ideal

Again, easy to verify applying properties of ideals: let $x, y \in I \cap J$.

$$x + y \in I, J \Rightarrow x + y \in I \cap J$$

$$-x \in I, J \Rightarrow -x \in I \cap J$$

$$0 \in I, J \Rightarrow 0 \in I \cap J$$

Meaning it is a subgroup. Also, for any $a \in A$, we have that $ax \in I, ax \in J$, which means $ax \in I \cap J$. This makes it an ideal!

- (iii) $I + J = \{i + j\}_{i \in I, j \in J}$ is an ideal.

- (iv) $I \cdot J = \{\sum_{i=1}^k x_i y_i\}_{x_i \in I, y_i \in J}$ is an ideal.¹

- (v) $I \cup J$ is not necessarily an ideal

More often than not, it is not an additive subgroup: consider $I = 2\mathbb{Z}, J = 3\mathbb{Z}$

We can verify some fun properties on integer ideals. Let $A = \mathbb{Z}, I = 6\mathbb{Z}, J = 10\mathbb{Z}$. Then:

▷ **Intersection:** We have:

$$\begin{aligned} I \cap J &= \{z \in \mathbb{Z} : z = 6n \wedge z = 10m, n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= \{\text{common multiples of 6 and 10}\} \\ &= \{\text{all multiples of } \text{lcm}(6, 10) = 30\} \\ &= 30\mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

▷ **Addition:** We have:

$$\begin{aligned} I + J &= \{6n + 10m\}_{n,m \in \mathbb{Z}} \\ &= \{\text{gcd}(6, 10)k, k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \\ &= 2\mathbb{Z} \end{aligned} \quad [\text{By Bezout}]$$

▷ **Product:** We have:

$$\begin{aligned} I \cdot J &= \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k 6x_i \cdot 10y_i, x_i, y_i \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ 60 \sum_{i=1}^k x_i y_i, x_i, y_i \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \\ &= 60\mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

From which we can conclude!

Theorem. Let $I = n\mathbb{Z}, J = m\mathbb{Z}$ two ideals of \mathbb{Z} . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} I \cap J &= \text{lcm}(n, m)\mathbb{Z} \\ I + J &= \text{gcd}(n, m)\mathbb{Z} \\ I \cdot J &= (n \cdot m)\mathbb{Z} \end{aligned}$$

Example Consider $A = \mathbb{R}[x]$ all polynomials on one variable with real coefficients². This forms a ring as is trivial to verify. Then, we consider the following:

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \{(x + 5)f(x), f(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]\} \\ J &= \{(x^2 + 2)f(x), f(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]\} \end{aligned}$$

which are comprised of all polynomials divisible by $(x + 5)$ and $(x^2 + 2)$, respec-

¹Proofs to (iii) and (iv) are left as exercise to the reader, as they are similar to that of (ii).

tively. Then, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} I \cap J &= \{(x+5)(x^2+2)f(x), f(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]\} \\ I \cdot J &= \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^k (x+5)f_i(x) \cdot (x^2+2)g_i(x) \right\} = \{(x+5)(x^2+2)f(x)\} \\ I + J &= \{(x+5)f(x) + (x^2+2)g(x)\} \end{aligned}$$

We can find $f(x), g(x)$ such that $(x+5)f(x) + (x^2+2)g(x) = 1 \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ (constant polynomial of value 1). For example, take

$$(x+5)(x-5) \left(\frac{-1}{27} \right) - (x^2+2) \left(\frac{-1}{27} \right) = (x^2 - 25 - x^2 - 2) \left(\frac{-1}{27} \right) = 1$$

Can we do that for any pair of polynomials in $\mathbb{R}[x]$?

Week 9

Definition 4.8. Let $S \subset A$. Let I be the minimal ideal containing S . Then, we denote $I = (S)$ the *ideal generated by the set S* . It means:

$$(S) = \left\{ \sum_i s_i a \mid s_i \in S, a \in A \right\}$$

I is called *principal* if $I = (x) = \{xa, x \in I\}_{a \in A}$ is generated by a single element.

Examples A and $\{0\}$ are principal, being generated by 1 and 0 respectively. Additionally, $n\mathbb{Z} = (n)$ is principal.

Proposition. A is a field $\Leftrightarrow A, \{0\}$ are the only ideals in A

Proof. We prove both directions separately:

\Rightarrow A is a field, consider an ideal I that isn't $\{0\}$ and an element $a \in I$, which is not 0. Since we're in a field, and it is non-zero, there exists $a^{-1} \in A$. By definition of an ideal, we have that $aa^{-1} \in I \Rightarrow 1 \in I \Rightarrow I = A$.

\Leftarrow Let A be a ring such that $A, \{0\}$ are its only ideals. Therefore, we consider an $0 \neq a \in A$, and the ideal it generates. Since $a \neq 0$, we know that it must generate A , and that there must exist a $y \in A$ such that $ya = 1$, meaning that $y = a^{-1}$ by definition, and A is a field as a consequence of its existence.

□

4.3 Quotient rings

Definition 4.9. An *equivalence relation* \sim on a set E is a relation such that for any $a, b, c \in E$, we have:

²If you want to see me get pedantic about notation for life half a page, go look at appendix C.

- ▷ $a \sim a$, meaning it is *reflexive*
- ▷ $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow b \sim a$, meaning it is *symmetric*
- ▷ $a \sim b, b \sim c \Rightarrow a \sim c$, meaning it is *transitive*

A *congruence relation* \sim on a commutative ring A is an equivalence relation such that for any $a, b, c, d \in A$

$$\begin{cases} a \sim b \\ c \sim d \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a + c \sim b + d \\ ac \sim bd \end{cases}$$

Proposition. If $I \subset A$ is an ideal, then the relation :

$$a \sim b \Leftrightarrow (b - a) \in I$$

is an equivalence relation, and if it is a congruence relation, then the set $I = \{a \in A : a \sim 0\}$ is an ideal in A .

Proof. We first check all of the properties of an equivalence relation. We have:

- ▷ Any ideal contains the 0 element, meaning that $(a - a) \in I \Rightarrow a \sim a$. This makes \sim reflexive.
- ▷ I must be an additive subgroup of A . Therefore, it must contain $b - a$ and $-(b - a) = a - b$, meaning that if $a \sim b$, then $b \sim a$. \sim is therefore symmetric.
- ▷ Consider $a, b, c \in A$ such that $a \sim b, b \sim c$. Therefore, this means that $c - b \in I, b - a \in I$. Now, consider that $c - a = (c - b) + (b - a)$ is the sum of two elements of I : since I is an additive subgroup, that must mean that $c - a \in I$, meaning $a \sim c$. Therefore \sim is transitive.

Now that we have checked the properties of an equivalence relation, we must check those for a congruence relationship: consider $a \sim b, c \sim d$ in A . Then:

$$\begin{cases} (b + d) - (a + c) = (b - a) + (d - c) \in I \\ bd - ac = (b - a)(d - c) = e(b - a) \in I \end{cases}$$

Where the last step is motivated by the fact that $e = d - c$ is an element of A , and by the definition of an ideal. This concludes the proof of the first part of the theorem.

Then, consider $a \sim 0, b \sim 0$. We have: $a + b \sim 0, 0 \sim 0, -a \sim 0$, which completes the subgroup requirement, as well as $x \sim x \Rightarrow a \cdot x \sim 0 \cdot x \Rightarrow a \cdot x \sim 0 \Rightarrow \{a \in A : a \sim 0\}$ is an ideal! \square

Proposition. Let A be a commutative ring, \sim a congruence relation over A such that $1 \not\sim 0$. Then, the set of congruence classes $A/\{x \in A : x \sim 0\} := A/\sim$ is a commutative ring.

Proof. Notate $\bar{a} = \{x \in A : x \sim a\}$. Define $\bar{a} + \bar{b} = \overline{a + b}$, $\bar{a} \cdot \bar{b} = \overline{ab}$. These are well-defined thanks to the properties on \sim . Most importantly, $\bar{1} \in A/\sim$. \square

Example Consider the ring of polynomials with real coefficients $\mathbb{R}[x]$. Let $I = \langle (x^2 - 4) \rangle$, and consider the commutative ring $B = \mathbb{R}[x]/I$. Within it, we have:

$$\overline{(x+2)} \cdot \overline{(x+1)} = \overline{x^2 + 3x + 2} = \overline{x^2 + 3x + 2 - x^2 - 4} = \overline{3x - 2}$$

where the step in red is justified as a way to find the remainder of the function by the defined congruence relation. Another example:

$$\overline{x} \cdot \overline{x} = \overline{x^2} = \overline{4}$$

through a similar process as earlier. One can also look for the zero divisors (recall definition 4.2) within this ring. Consider:

$$\overline{(x+2)}\overline{(x-2)} = \overline{(x^2 - 4)} = \overline{0}$$

since $(x+2), (x-2)$ are non-zero, but their product is, this means that they are zero divisors, and that B is not an integral domain.

As an exercise, one can show that any element in B can be written under the form $\overline{ax + b}$, $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 4.10. Recall the definition of a principal ideal (Definition 4.8). A commutative ring where every ideal is principal is called a *principal ring*. An integral domain where every ideal is principal is called a *principal integral domain (PID)*.

This means that any field is a PID, since it only has two ideals, and they are both principal (A is generated by 1, 0 is generated by 0).

Proposition. \mathbb{Z} is a PID.

Proof. If $I = \{0\}$, then $I = (0)$. Suppose then that $I \neq \{0\}$. Therefore, there exists an $0 \neq a \in I$, such that $a \in I, -a \in I \Rightarrow |a| \in I$. Consider d the smallest positive element in I . Then, for any $n \in I$, by euclidean division, $n = kd + r, 0 \leq r \leq d - 1 \Rightarrow r \in I$. Since d is the smallest positive integer in I , then it must be the case that $r = 0$, by definition of the ideal. Therefore, $I = (d)$. \square

4.4 Ring homomorphisms

Definition 4.11. Let A, B two commutative rings. Then, $f : A \rightarrow B$ is a *ring homomorphism* if, for $a, b \in A$ and well-defined operations

$$\begin{aligned} f(a + b) &= f(a) + f(b) \\ f(ab) &= f(a)f(b) \\ f(1_A) &= 1_B \end{aligned}$$

Proposition. Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ be a ring homomorphism. Then, $\ker f$ is an ideal, and $\text{im } f$ is a subring.

Definition 4.12. A *subring* is a subset of a ring that is a ring with respect to the same operations and constants as the superset.

Examples Consider C an arbitrary subring of \mathbb{Z} . Then, it must contain 0, 1, and be defined over the same $+$, \cdot . Therefore, since it must be closed under addition, it must contain -1 , as well as

$$\underbrace{1 + 1 + \dots + 1}_n$$

for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. This means that $C = \mathbb{Z}$.

For a more interesting example, take a ring homomorphism $f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$, with $n, m, \in \mathbb{N}$. We can make a few observations about it.

- ▷ f cannot map to a proper subring of $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$. We know that $[1]_m \in \text{im } f$, meaning that

$$\underbrace{[1]_m + \dots + [1]_m}_{k \text{ times}} = [k]_m \in \text{im } f \forall k < m$$

Therefore, $\text{im } f = \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$.

- ▷ $f([n]_n) = f([0]_n) = [0]_m$, but also, $f([n]_n) = f([1]_n \cdot n) = [1]_m \cdot n = [n]_m$, meaning that $[n]_m = 0 \Rightarrow n \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$, which implies $m|n$.
- ▷ Additionally, f is such that $[1]_n \xrightarrow{f} [1]_m$, meaning that $[k]_n \xrightarrow{f} [k]_m$ for any k . This implies that f is unique.

In conclusion:

Proposition. *There exists a ring homomorphism $f : \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ if and only if $m|n$. In that case, then f is unique, and its image is equal to $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$.*

Now for A Quick Tour of This Land's Characteristic Rings.

Let A a ring. There exists only a single ring homomorphism $\tau : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow A$. This is due to the fact that $\tau(0) = 0, \tau(1) = 1_A \Rightarrow \tau(k) = \tau(1 + 1 + \dots + 1) = 1_A + \dots + 1_A = k \cdot 1_A \in A$. Therefore, the mapping is uniquely determined, and $\tau(n \cdot k) = \tau(n) \cdot \tau(k)$.

There are two possibilities to characterize the kernel of this transformation, either $\ker \tau = (0)$, or $\ker \tau = (d)$ with $d \geq 2$: in short, it cannot be 1.³ Let us formalize this:

Definition 4.13. *Let A be a ring, τ the unique homomorphism from the integers to it. Then, the *characteristic* of A is*

$$c_A = \begin{cases} 0 & , \ker \tau = 0 \\ d & , \ker \tau = d \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

Examples The characteristic of the real numbers is 0, since the field homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau : \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ n &\mapsto n \end{aligned}$$

maps 0 (and only 0) to 0. Therefore, its kernel is $\{0\}$, and $C_{\mathbb{R}} = 0$. A similar

³This makes sense in accordance to the definition of a ring homomorphism: $\tau(1) \neq 0$ for any τ

argument gives us that $C_{\mathbb{Z}} = 0$, and we can consider

$$\begin{aligned}\tau : \mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \\ k &\mapsto [k]_n\end{aligned}$$

Which maps every multiple of n to 0. Therefore, $\ker \tau = (n)$, and $C_{\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}} = 0$.

Proposition. *A is an integral domain $\Rightarrow c_A = 0$ or $c_A = p$ a prime.*

Proof. Suppose $c_A = m \cdot k$ for $m, k > 1$. Then, $\tau(m) \cdot \tau(k) = \tau(m \cdot k) = 0 \in A$, meaning that there are two nontrivial zero divisors in A . \square

This holds for fields as well, since they are integral domains necessarily.

Definition 4.14. *Let A, B be two rings. Then, the **direct product** is given by $A \times B = \{(a, b), a \in A, b \in B\}$. It has ring structure, with neutral elements $(0_A, 0_B)$, $(1_A, 1_B)$, and component wise operations.*

Examples Consider the ring $A = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$, and let us compute its characteristic. We first describe the homomorphism:

$$\tau : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$$

such that $\tau(1) = ([1]_n, [1]_m)$. Therefore, we know that

$$\tau(k) = ([k]_n, [k]_m) = ([0]_n, [0]_m) \Leftrightarrow k \equiv 0 \pmod{n} \wedge k \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$$

The characteristic is the smallest element of such form: $c_A = \text{lcm}(n, m)$.

This can be generalized to the characteristic of any product of two rings A, B : $c_{A \times B} = \text{lcm}(c_A, c_B)$. This lets us construct fields of prime characteristics, but that aren't fields:

$$A = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$$

has prime characteristic $c_A = \text{lcm}(p, p) = p$, but has non-trivial zero divisors as well:

$$(0, 1) \cdot (0, 1) = (0, 0)$$

Which means it is not an integral domain.

Method Let's compute more characteristics!

Let $B = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. Then, using $\tau(k) = (k, [k]_n)$, we can see that the kernel of τ must be equal to $\{0\}$, since no other term will leave a 0 in the first spot. Since $\ker \tau = (0)$, then $c_B = 0$.

Let $D = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}[x]$ be the ring of polynomials over x with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. The homomorphism must be such that $\tau(1) = [1]_n$, meaning that $\tau(k) = [k]_n = 0 \Leftrightarrow n|k$. This means that $\ker \tau = (n)$, meaning that $c_D = n$.

Week 10

Appendix A

Proofs from exercise sets

This barely needs such pompous titles but oh well. It's fun.

A.1 Theorem 1.1

Proposition. *Strong Induction \Rightarrow Well-ordering principle.*

Proof. We can prove this by induction. Suppose there exists a subset $Y \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that it contains no least element. Consider $P(n) = "n \notin Y"$.

Base: If 0 was in Y , then it would be its least element, since there are no smaller elements of \mathbb{N} . As such, it cannot be that $0 \in Y$, meaning $P(0)$ is true.

Induction: Assume $P(k)$ is true for any $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$. Then, if it was in Y , $n + 1$ would be its smallest element, since every smaller element is not in Y . As such, $P(n + 1)$ holds as well. Since P is hereditary and true for 0, it is true for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

□

A.2 Theorem 2.4

Proposition. *Any $n > 1$ can be expressed by the product of primes.*

Proof. Consider $S = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : n > 1 \wedge n \text{ does not have a prime factorization}\}$. Then, we take the smallest element in this set, k . k cannot be a prime, so there exists $a, b < k$ such that $k = ab$. However, a and b cannot be in S , since they are smaller than k . This means that $a = \prod p_{a,k}^{a_k}, b = \prod p_{b,k}^{b_k}$, meaning that their product is the product of primes. Therefore, k cannot be in S , so S has to be empty. □

A.3 Theorem 3.4.1

Proposition. *Let E a finite set, $x, y \in E$, G a finite group. Then,*

$$\text{Orb}_x = \text{Orb}_y \text{ ou } \text{Orb}_x \cap \text{Orb}_y = \emptyset$$

Proof. Assume that there exists an $s \in Orb_x : s \in Orb_y$. Then, there exist $g_x, g_y \in G$ such that

$$s = g_x \cdot x = g_y \cdot y \Leftrightarrow x = g_x^{-1} g_y \cdot y = g \cdot y$$

meaning that $x \in Orb_y$, which in turn means $Orb_x = Orb_y$. Therefore, if there is an intersection between two orbits, then they must be the same. \square

Appendix B

Elliptic curves

Consider the equation

$$\Gamma : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$$

for rational pairs $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$. This is an **elliptic curve**. The set of points on this curve has group structure! We introduce the relation $P + Q = -R$ for three points P, Q, R colinear on the curve. Therefore, the relationships that follow from it are as follows:

] The neutral 0 element is at infinity (when there aren't three intersections with the curve, for example).

$$P + 0 = 0 + P = P \quad \forall P$$

$-P$ is the point obtained from P by symmetry wrt. the x axis.

The group operation is therefore defined, in the general case, geometrically: to compute $P + Q$, you draw a line through P and Q , and you denote the intersection with the curve R . Then, $P + Q := -R$. For edge cases, we have:

- If P and Q are each other's reflection across the x axis, then $P + Q = 0$ (since there's no third intersection with the curve, we take the point at infinity).
- If $P = Q$, then you pick the line tangent to Γ at Q , find its intersection with Γ , denoted $2Q$. Then, $Q + Q = -2Q$.

This induces a specific algorithm to factorize a number $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

- (i). Define an elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ over $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$, and pick a point $P = (x_0, y_0)$ on it.
- (ii). Compute $i!P$ up to some integer $k > 0$. If we take the example of $3!P$, then we can show the process:

$$3!P = 3(2P) = 2 \cdot 2P + 2P$$

This involves finding the slopes of tangent lines to the curve, as well as their integer intersections. This so

Appendix C

Jack gets pedantic about notation for like half a page

Now. Professor Lachowska is a doctor in mathematics, and also potentially a good dozen of orders of magnitudes smarter than me. So this is by no means a way for me to claim I'm better than her. However.

When you say that $\mathbb{R}[x]$ is the set of all polynomials of one variable over coefficients in \mathbb{R} , what you're doing in computer science terms is you're defining a type. An element of that set essentially follows the rules of that type. The way the type $\mathbb{R}[x]$ is typically notated is $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and we define an element of that type as $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

$f(x)$ means the application of $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ to the number $x : \mathbb{R}$, and it is therefore a real value, $f(x) : \mathbb{R}$.

What Prof. Lachowska says is: "Nah, I'll do my own thing". $f(x)$ is the polynomial, and f does not exist. This makes notation heavier and not standard.

Why does she do that? I'm not sure. Does it matter? Not really. Am I bitter about it? Yes.

And it's my textbook, so I get to write this page.