

Mathematics

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Part I

Category Theory

Chapter 1

Foundations

This is a placeholder — I am not sure what foundation I want to use for this project yet. I will try to work in a way which is foundation-independent. What I do could be formalized in ZFC, ETCS, or some other system. I will assume the usual set theoretic constructions as needed. Sets will be defined up to bijection only.

Chapter 2

Number Theory

2.1 Congruence

Definition 2.1 (Congruence). Let a, b, n be integers with $n > 0$. We say a is *congruent to b modulo n* , and write $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$, iff $n \mid b - a$.

Proposition 2.2. *For n a positive integer, congruence modulo n is an equivalence relation.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. For any integer a we have $a \equiv a \pmod{n}$.

PROOF: Since $n \mid 0 = a - a$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. If $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ then $b \equiv a \pmod{n}$.

PROOF: If $n \mid b - a$ then $n \mid a - b = -(b - a)$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. If $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ and $b \equiv c \pmod{n}$ then $a \equiv c \pmod{n}$.

PROOF: If $n \mid b - a$ and $n \mid c - b$ then $n \mid c - a = (c - b) + (b - a)$.

□

Definition 2.3. Let $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ be the quotient set of \mathbb{Z} with respect to congruence modulo n .

Proposition 2.4. $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ has exactly n elements.

PROOF: Every integer is congruent to one of $0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ by the division algorithm, and no two of them are congruent to one another, since if $0 \leq i < j < n$ then $0 < j - i < n$. □

Proposition 2.5. *If $a \equiv a' \pmod{n}$ and $b \equiv b' \pmod{n}$ then $a + b \equiv a' + b' \pmod{n}$.*

PROOF: If $n \mid a' - a$ and $n \mid b' - b$ then $n \mid (a' + b') - (a + b)$. □

Proposition 2.6. *If $a \equiv a' \pmod{n}$ and $b \equiv b' \pmod{n}$ then $ab \equiv a'b' \pmod{n}$.*

PROOF: If $n \mid a' - a$ and $n \mid b' - b$ then $n \mid a'b' - ab = a'(b' - b) + (a' - a)b$. □

Chapter 3

Categories

Definition 3.1 (Category). A *category* \mathcal{C} consists of:

- A class $|\mathcal{C}|$ of *objects*. We write $A \in \mathcal{C}$ for $A \in |\mathcal{C}|$.
- For any objects A, B , a set $\mathcal{C}[A, B]$ of *morphisms* from A to B . We write $f : A \rightarrow B$ for $f \in \mathcal{C}[A, B]$.
- For any object A , a morphism $\text{id}_A : A \rightarrow A$, the *identity* morphism on A .
- For any morphisms $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : B \rightarrow C$, a morphism $g \circ f : A \rightarrow C$, the *composite* of f and g .

such that:

Associativity Given $f : A \rightarrow B$, $g : B \rightarrow C$ and $h : C \rightarrow D$, we have

$$h \circ (g \circ f) = (h \circ g) \circ f$$

Left Unit Law For any morphism $f : A \rightarrow B$, we have $\text{id}_B \circ f = f$.

Right Unit Law For any morphism $f : A \rightarrow B$, we have $f \circ \text{id}_A = f$.

Proposition 3.2. *The identity morphism on an object is unique.*

PROOF: If i and j are identity morphisms on A then $i = i \circ j = j$. \square

Example 3.3 (Category of Sets). The *category of sets* **Set** has objects all sets and morphisms all functions.

Definition 3.4 (Endomorphism). In a category \mathcal{C} , an *endomorphism* on an object A is a morphism $A \rightarrow A$. We write $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(A)$ for $\mathcal{C}[A, A]$.

Definition 3.5 (Opposite Category). For any category \mathcal{C} , the *opposite* category \mathcal{C}^{op} is the category with the same objects as \mathcal{C} and

$$\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}[A, B] = \mathcal{C}[B, A]$$

3.1 Preorders

Definition 3.6 (Preorder). A *preorder* on a set A is a relation \leq on A that is reflexive and transitive.

A *preordered set* is a pair (A, \leq) such that \leq is a preorder on A . We usually write A for the preordered set (A, \leq) .

We identify any preordered set A with the category whose objects are the elements of A , with one morphism $a \rightarrow b$ iff $a \leq b$, and no morphism $a \rightarrow b$ otherwise.

Example 3.7. For any ordinal α , let α be the preorder $\{\beta : \beta < \alpha\}$ under \leq .

Definition 3.8 (Discrete Preorder). We identify any set A with the *discrete* preorder $(A, =)$.

3.2 Monomorphisms and Epimorphisms

Definition 3.9 (Monomorphism). In a category, let $f : A \rightarrow B$. Then f is a *monomorphism* or *monic* iff, for every object X and morphism $x, y : X \rightarrow A$, if $fx = fy$ then $x = y$.

Definition 3.10 (Epimorphism). In a category, let $f : A \rightarrow B$. Then f is a *epimorphism* or *epi* iff, for every object X and morphism $x, y : B \rightarrow X$, if $xf = yf$ then $x = y$.

Proposition 3.11. *The composite of two monomorphism is monic.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. LET: $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : B \rightarrow C$ be monic.

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. LET: $x, y : X \rightarrow A$

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. ASSUME: $g \circ f \circ x = g \circ f \circ y$

$\langle 1 \rangle 4$. $f \circ x = f \circ y$

$\langle 1 \rangle 5$. $x = y$

□

Proposition 3.12. *The composite of two epimorphisms is epi.*

PROOF: Dual. □

Proposition 3.13. *Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : B \rightarrow C$. If $g \circ f$ is monic then f is monic.*

PROOF: If $f \circ x = f \circ y$ then $gfx = gfy$ and so $x = y$. □

Proposition 3.14. *Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $g : B \rightarrow C$. If $g \circ f$ is epi then g is epi.*

PROOF: Dual. □

Proposition 3.15. *A function is a monomorphism in **Set** iff it is injective.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. LET: $f : A \rightarrow B$

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. If f is monic then f is injective.

$\langle 2 \rangle 1$. ASSUME: f is monic.

$\langle 2 \rangle 2$. LET: $x, y \in A$

$\langle 2 \rangle 3$. ASSUME: $f(x) = f(y)$

$\langle 2 \rangle 4$. LET: $\bar{x}, \bar{y} : 1 \rightarrow A$ be the functions such that $\bar{x}(*) = x$ and $\bar{y}(*) = y$

$\langle 2 \rangle 5$. $f \circ \bar{x} = f \circ \bar{y}$

$\langle 2 \rangle 6$. $\bar{x} = \bar{y}$

PROOF: By $\langle 2 \rangle 1$.

$\langle 2 \rangle 7$. $x = y$

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. If f is injective then f is monic.

$\langle 2 \rangle 1$. ASSUME: f is injective.

$\langle 2 \rangle 2$. LET: X be a set and $x, y : X \rightarrow A$.

$\langle 2 \rangle 3$. ASSUME: $f \circ x = f \circ y$

PROVE: $x = y$

$\langle 2 \rangle 4$. LET: $t \in X$

PROVE: $x(t) = y(t)$

$\langle 2 \rangle 5$. $f(x(t)) = f(y(t))$

$\langle 2 \rangle 6$. $x(t) = y(t)$

PROOF: By $\langle 2 \rangle 1$.

□

Proposition 3.16. *A function is an epimorphism in **Set** iff it is surjective.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. LET: $f : A \rightarrow B$

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. If f is an epimorphism then f is surjective.

$\langle 2 \rangle 1$. ASSUME: f is an epimorphism.

$\langle 2 \rangle 2$. LET: $b \in B$

$\langle 2 \rangle 3$. LET: $x, y : B \rightarrow 2$ be defined by $x(b) = 1$ and $x(t) = 0$ for all other $t \in B$, $y(t) = 0$ for all $t \in B$.

$\langle 2 \rangle 4$. $x \neq y$

$\langle 2 \rangle 5$. $x \circ f \neq y \circ f$

$\langle 2 \rangle 6$. There exists $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. If f is surjective then f is an epimorphism.

$\langle 2 \rangle 1$. ASSUME: f is surjective.

$\langle 2 \rangle 2$. LET: $x, y : B \rightarrow X$

$\langle 2 \rangle 3$. ASSUME: $x \circ f = y \circ f$

PROVE: $x = y$

$\langle 2 \rangle 4$. LET: $b \in B$

PROVE: $x(b) = y(b)$

$\langle 2 \rangle 5$. PICK $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$

$\langle 2 \rangle 6$. $x(f(a)) = y(f(a))$

$\langle 2 \rangle 7$. $x(b) = y(b)$

□

Proposition 3.17. *In a preorder, every morphism is monic and epi.*

PROOF: Immediate from definitions. \square

3.3 Sections and Retractions

Definition 3.18 (Section, Retraction). In a category, let $r : A \rightarrow B$ and $s : B \rightarrow A$. Then r is a *retraction* of s , and s is a *section* of r , iff $r \circ s = \text{id}_B$.

Proposition 3.19. *Every identity morphism is a section and retraction of itself.*

PROOF: Immediate from definitions. \square

Proposition 3.20. *Let $r, r' : A \rightarrow B$ and $s : B \rightarrow A$. If r is a retraction of s and r' is a section of s then $r = r'$.*

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned} r &= r \circ \text{id}_A \\ &= r \circ s \circ r' \\ &= \text{id}_B \circ r' \\ &= r' \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Proposition 3.21. *Let $r_1 : A \rightarrow B$, $r_2 : B \rightarrow C$, $s_1 : B \rightarrow A$ and $s_2 : C \rightarrow B$. If r_1 is a retraction of s_1 and r_2 is a retraction of s_2 then $r_2 \circ r_1$ is a retraction of $s_1 \circ s_2$.*

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned} r_2 \circ r_1 \circ s_1 \circ s_2 &= r_2 \circ \text{id}_B \circ s_2 \\ &= r_2 \circ s_2 \\ &= \text{id}_C \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Proposition 3.22. *Every section is monic.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. LET: $s : A \rightarrow B$ be a section of $r : B \rightarrow A$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. LET: $x, y : X \rightarrow A$ satisfy $sx = sy$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. $rsx = rsy$

$\langle 1 \rangle 4$. $x = y$

\square

Proposition 3.23. *Every retraction is epi.*

PROOF: Dual. \square

Proposition 3.24. *In Set, every epimorphism has a retraction.*

PROOF: By the Axiom of Choice. \square

Example 3.25. It is not true in general that every monomorphism in any category has a section. nor that every epimorphism in any category has a retraction.

In the category **2**, the morphism $0 \leq 1$ is monic and epi but has no retraction or section.

3.4 Isomorphisms

Definition 3.26 (Isomorphism). In a category \mathcal{C} , a morphism $f : A \rightarrow B$ is an *isomorphism*, denoted $f : A \cong B$, iff there exists a morphism $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$, the *inverse* of f , such that $f^{-1} \circ f = \text{id}_A$ and $f \circ f^{-1} = \text{id}_B$.

An *automorphism* on an object A is an isomorphism between A and itself. We write $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{C}}(A)$ for the set of all automorphisms on A .

Objects A and B are *isomorphic*, $A \cong B$, iff there exists an isomorphism between them.

Proposition 3.27. *The inverse of an isomorphism is unique.*

PROOF: Proposition 3.20. \square

Proposition 3.28. *For any object A we have $\text{id}_A : A \cong A$ and $\text{id}_A^{-1} = \text{id}_A$.*

PROOF: Since $\text{id}_A \circ \text{id}_A = \text{id}_A$ by the Unit Laws. \square

Proposition 3.29. *If $f : A \cong B$ then $f^{-1} : B \cong A$ and $(f^{-1})^{-1} = f$.*

PROOF: Immediate from definitions. \square

Proposition 3.30. *If $f : A \cong B$ and $g : B \cong C$ then $g \circ f : A \cong C$ and $(g \circ f)^{-1} = f^{-1} \circ g^{-1}$.*

PROOF: From Proposition 3.21. \square

Definition 3.31 (Groupoid). A *groupoid* is a category in which every morphism is an isomorphism.

3.5 Initial and Terminal Objects

Definition 3.32 (Initial Object). An object I in a category is *initial* iff, for any object X , there is exactly one morphism $I \rightarrow X$.

Example 3.33. The empty set is the initial object in **Set**.

Definition 3.34 (Terminal Object). An object T in a category is *terminal* iff, for any object X , there is exactly one morphism $X \rightarrow T$.

Example 3.35. Every singleton is terminal in **Set**.

Proposition 3.36. *If I and J are initial in a category, then there exists a unique isomorphism $I \cong J$.*

PROOF:

- $\langle 1 \rangle 1$. LET: i be the unique morphism $I \rightarrow J$.
- $\langle 1 \rangle 2$. LET: i^{-1} be the unique morphism $J \rightarrow I$.
- $\langle 1 \rangle 3$. $i \circ i^{-1} = \text{id}_J$

PROOF: Since there is only one morphism $J \rightarrow J$.

- $\langle 1 \rangle 4$. $i^{-1} \circ i = \text{id}_I$

PROOF: Since there is only one morphism $I \rightarrow I$.
 \square

Proposition 3.37. *If S and T are terminal in a category, then there exists a unique isomorphism $S \cong T$.*

PROOF: Dual. \square

Chapter 4

Functors

Definition 4.1 (Functor). Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be categories. A *functor* $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ consists of:

- for every object $A \in \mathcal{C}$, an object $FA \in \mathcal{D}$
- for any morphism $f : A \rightarrow B : \mathcal{C}$, a morphism $Ff : FA \rightarrow FB : \mathcal{D}$

such that:

- $F\text{id}_A = \text{id}_{FA}$
- $F(g \circ f) = Fg \circ Ff$

Definition 4.2 (Identity Functor). For any category \mathcal{C} , the *identity functor* $1_{\mathcal{C}} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} 1_{\mathcal{C}}A &= A \\ 1_{\mathcal{C}}f &= f \end{aligned}$$

Definition 4.3 (Constant Functor). Given categories \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} and an object $D \in \mathcal{D}$, the *constant functor* $K^{\mathcal{C}}D : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is the functor defined by

$$\begin{aligned} K^{\mathcal{C}}DC &= D \\ K^{\mathcal{C}}Df &= \text{id}_D \end{aligned}$$

4.1 Comma Categories

Definition 4.4 (Comma Category). Let $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ and $G : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ be functors. The *comma category* $F \downarrow G$ is the category with:

- objects all pairs (C, D, f) where $C \in \mathcal{C}$, $D \in \mathcal{D}$ and $f : FC \rightarrow GD : \mathcal{E}$

- morphisms $(u, v) : (C, D, f) \rightarrow (C', D', g)$ all pairs $u : C \rightarrow C' : \mathcal{C}$ and $v : D \rightarrow D' : \mathcal{D}$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} FC & \xrightarrow{f} & GD \\ \downarrow Fu & & \downarrow Gv \\ FC' & \xrightarrow{g} & GD' \end{array}$$

Definition 4.5 (Slice Category). Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $A \in \mathcal{C}$. The *slice category* over A , denoted \mathcal{C}/A , is the comma category $1_{\mathcal{C}} \downarrow K^1 A$.

Definition 4.6 (Coslice Category). Let \mathcal{C} be a category and $A \in \mathcal{C}$. The *coslice category* over A , denoted $\mathcal{C} \backslash A$, is the comma category $K^1 A \downarrow 1_{\mathcal{C}}$.

Definition 4.7 (Pointed Sets). The *category of pointed sets* \mathbf{Set}_* is the coslice category $\mathbf{Set} \backslash 1$.

Part II

Group Theory

Chapter 5

Groups

Definition 5.1 (Group). A *group* G consists of a set G and a binary operation $\cdot : G^2 \rightarrow G$ such that \cdot is associative, and there exists $e \in G$, the *identity* element of the group, such that:

- For all $x \in G$ we have $xe = ex = x$
- For all $x \in G$, there exists $x^{-1} \in G$, the *inverse* of x , such that $xx^{-1} = x^{-1}x = e$.

We identify a group G with the category G with one object and morphisms the elements of G , with composition given by \cdot .

The *order* of a group G , denoted $|G|$, is the number of elements in G if G is finite; otherwise we write $|G| = \infty$.

Proposition 5.2. *The identity in a group is unique.*

PROOF: Proposition 3.2.

Proposition 5.3. *The inverse of an element is unique.*

PROOF: If i and j are inverses of x then $i = ixj = j$. \square

Example 5.4. • The *trivial* group is $\{e\}$ under $ee = e$.

- \mathbb{Z} is a group under addition
- \mathbb{Q} is a group under addition
- $\mathbb{Q} - \{0\}$ is a group under multiplication
- \mathbb{R} is a group under addition
- $\mathbb{R} - \{0\}$ is a group under multiplication
- \mathbb{C} is a group under addition
- $\mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ is a group under multiplication

- $\{-1, 1\}$ is a group under multiplication
- The set of 2×2 real matrices with non-zero determinant is a group under matrix multiplication.
- For any positive integer n , the set $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ of integers modulo n under addition is a group. We call this set the *cyclic* group of order n , denoted C_n .
- For any category \mathcal{C} and object $A \in \mathcal{C}$, we have $\text{Aut}_{\mathcal{C}}(A)$ is a group under $gf = f \circ g$.
For A a set, we call $S_A = \text{Aut}_{\text{Set}}(A)$ the *symmetric group* or *group of permutations* of A .
- For $n \geq 3$, the *dihedral group* D_{2n} consists of the set of rigid motions that map the regular n -gon onto itself under composition.

Example 5.5. • The only group of order 1 is the trivial group.

- The only group of order 2 is \mathbb{Z}_2 .
- The only group of order 3 is \mathbb{Z}_3 .
- There are exactly two groups of order 4: \mathbb{Z}_4 and $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ under $(a, b)(c, d) = (ac, bd)$.

Example 5.6. For any positive integer n , the set

$$(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^* = \{m \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} : \gcd(m, n) = 1\}$$

is a group under multiplication.

PROOF:

- $\langle 1 \rangle 1$. If $m \equiv m' \pmod n$ and $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ then $\gcd(m', n) = 1$.
- $\langle 2 \rangle 1$. PICK integers a, b such that $am + bn = 1$
- $\langle 2 \rangle 2$. PICK an integer c such that $m' - m = cn$
- $\langle 2 \rangle 3$. $am' + (b - ac)n = 1$
- $\langle 1 \rangle 2$. Multiplication is associative.
- $\langle 1 \rangle 3$. 1 is the identity element.
- $\langle 1 \rangle 4$. Every element has an inverse.
- $\langle 2 \rangle 1$. LET: $a \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$
- $\langle 2 \rangle 2$. PICK integers b, c such that $ab + cn = 1$
- $\langle 2 \rangle 3$. $ab = 1$ in $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$

□

Proposition 5.7 (Cancellation). *Let G be a group. Let $a, g, h \in G$. If $ag = ah$ or $ga = ha$ then $g = h$.*

PROOF: If $ag = ah$ then $g = a^{-1}ag = a^{-1}ah = h$. Similarly if $ga = ha$. □

Proposition 5.8. *Let G be a group and $g, h \in G$. Then $(gh)^{-1} = h^{-1}g^{-1}$.*

PROOF: Since $ghh^{-1}g^{-1} = e$. \square

Definition 5.9. Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$. We define $g^n \in G$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} g^0 &= e \\ g^{n+1} &= g^n g & (n \geq 0) \\ g^{-n} &= (g^{-1})^n & (n > 0) \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 5.10. Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$ and $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$g^{m+n} = g^m g^n .$$

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. For all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have $g^{k+1} = g^k g$

$\langle 2 \rangle 1$. For all $k \geq 0$ we have $g^{k+1} = g^k g$

PROOF: Immediate from definition.

$\langle 2 \rangle 2$. $g^{-1+1} = g^{-1} g$

PROOF: Both are equal to e .

$\langle 2 \rangle 3$. For all $k > 1$ we have $g^{-k+1} = g^{-k} g$

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned} g^{-k+1} &= (g^{-1})^{k-1} \\ &= (g^{-1})^{k-1} g^{-1} g \\ &= (g^{-1})^k g \\ &= g^{-k} g \end{aligned}$$

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. For all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have $g^{k-1} = g^k g^{-1}$

PROOF: Substitute $k = k - 1$ above and multiply by g^{-1} .

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. $g^{m+0} = g^m g^0$

PROOF: Since $g^m g^0 = g^m e = g^m$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 4$. If $g^{m+n} = g^m g^n$ then $g^{m+n+1} = g^m g^{n+1}$

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned} g^{m+n+1} &= g^{m+n} g & (\langle 1 \rangle 1) \\ &= g^m g^n g \\ &= g^m g^{n+1} & (\langle 1 \rangle 1) \end{aligned}$$

$\langle 1 \rangle 5$. If $g^{m+n} = g^m g^n$ then $g^{m+n-1} = g^m g^{n-1}$

PROOF:

$$\begin{aligned} g^{m+n-1} g &= g^{m+n} & (\langle 1 \rangle 1) \\ &= g^m g^n \\ \therefore g^{m+n-1} &= g^m g^n g^{-1} \\ &= g^m g^{n-1} & (\langle 1 \rangle 2) \end{aligned}$$

\square

Proposition 5.11. Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$ and $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$(g^m)^n = g^{mn} .$$

PROOF:

$$\langle 1 \rangle 1. (g^m)^0 = g^0$$

PROOF: Both sides are equal to e .

$$\langle 1 \rangle 2. \text{ If } (g^m)^n = g^{mn} \text{ then } (g^m)^{n+1} = g^{m(n+1)}.$$

PROOF:

$$(g^m)^{n+1} = (g^m)^n g^m \quad (\text{Proposition 5.10})$$

$$= g^{mn} g^m$$

$$= g^{mn+m} \quad (\text{Proposition 5.10})$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 3. \text{ If } (g^m)^n = g^{mn} \text{ then } (g^m)^{n-1} = g^{m(n-1)}.$$

PROOF:

$$(g^m)^n = g^{mn}$$

$$\therefore (g^m)^{n-1} g^m = g^{mn-m} g^m \quad (\text{Proposition 5.10})$$

$$\therefore (g^m)^{n-1} = g^{mn-m} \quad (\text{Cancellation})$$

□

Definition 5.12 (Commute). Let G be a group and $g, h \in G$. We say g and h *commute* iff $gh = hg$.

5.1 Order of an Element

Definition 5.13 (Order). Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$. Then g has *finite order* iff there exists a positive integer n such that $g^n = e$. In this case, the *order* of g , denoted $|g|$, is the least positive integer n such that $g^n = e$.

If g does not have finite order, we write $|g| = \infty$.

Proposition 5.14. Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$ and n be a positive integer. If $g^n = e$ then $|g| \mid n$.

PROOF:

$$\langle 1 \rangle 1. \text{ LET: } n = q|g| + d \text{ where } 0 \leq d < |g|$$

PROOF: Division Algorithm.

$$\langle 1 \rangle 2. g^d = e$$

PROOF:

$$e = g^n$$

$$= g^{q|g|+d}$$

$$= (g^{|g|})^q g^d \quad (\text{Propositions 5.10, 5.11})$$

$$= e^q g^d$$

$$= g^d$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 3. d = 0$$

PROOF: By minimality of $|g|$.

$$\langle 1 \rangle 4. n = q|g|$$

□

Corollary 5.14.1. *Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$ have finite order and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $g^n = e$ if and only if $|g| \mid n$.*

Proposition 5.15. *Let G be a group and $g \in G$. Then $|g| \leq |G|$.*

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. ASSUME: w.l.o.g. G is finite.

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. PICK i, j with $0 \leq i < j \leq |G|$ such that $g^i = g^j$.

PROOF: Otherwise $g^0, g^1, \dots, g^{|G|}$ would be $|G| + 1$ distinct elements of G .

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. $g^{j-i} = e$

$\langle 1 \rangle 4$. g has finite order and $|g| \leq |G|$

PROOF: Since $|g| \leq j - i \leq j \leq |G|$.

□

Proposition 5.16. *Let G be a group. Let $g \in G$ have finite order. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then*

$$|g^m| = \frac{\text{lcm}(m, |g|)}{m} = \frac{|g|}{\text{gcd}(m, |g|)}$$

PROOF: Since for any integer d we have

$$g^{md} = e \Leftrightarrow |g| \mid md \quad (\text{Corollary 5.14.1})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{lcm}(m, |g|) \mid md$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{\text{lcm}(m, |g|)}{m} \mid d \quad \square$$

and so $|g^m| = \frac{\text{lcm}(m, |g|)}{m}$ by Corollary 5.14.1. □

Corollary 5.16.1. *If g has odd order then $|g^2| = |g|$.*

Corollary 5.16.2. *Let m and n be integers with $n > 0$. The order of m in $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is $\frac{n}{\text{gcd}(m, n)}$.*

PROOF: Since the order of 1 is n . □

Proposition 5.17. *Let G be a group. Let $g, h \in G$ have finite order. Assume $gh = hg$. Then $|gh|$ has finite order and*

$$|gh| \mid \text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)$$

PROOF: Since $(gh)^{\text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)} = g^{\text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)} h^{\text{lcm}(|g|, |h|)} = e$. □

Example 5.18. This example shows that we cannot remove the hypothesis that $gh = hg$.

In $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, take

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad h = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then $|g| = 4$, $|h| = 3$ and $|gh| = \infty$.

Proposition 5.19. *Let G be a group and $g, h \in G$ have finite order. If $gh = hg$ and $\text{gcd}(|g|, |h|) = 1$ then $|gh| = |g||h|$.*

PROOF:

$$\langle 1 \rangle 1. \text{ LET: } N = |gh|$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 2. g^N = (h^{-1})^N$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 3. g^{N|g|} = e$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 4. |g^N| \mid |g|$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 5. h^{-N|h|} = e$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 6. |g^N| \mid |h|$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 7. |g^N| = 1$$

PROOF: Since $\gcd(|g|, |h|) = 1$.

$$\langle 1 \rangle 8. g^N = e$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 9. |g| \mid N$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 10. h^{-N} = e$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 11. |h| \mid N$$

$$\langle 1 \rangle 12. N = |g||h|$$

PROOF: Using Proposition 5.17.

□

Proposition 5.20. *Let G be a finite group. Assume there is exactly one element $f \in G$ of order 2. Then the product of all the elements of G is f .*

PROOF: Let the elements of G be g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n . Apart from e and f , every element and its inverse are distinct elements of the list. Hence the product of the list is $ef = f$. □

Proposition 5.21. *Let G be a finite group of order n . Let m be the number of elements of G of order 2. Then $n - m$ is odd.*

PROOF: In the list of all elements that are not of order 2, every element and its inverse are distinct except for e . Hence the list has odd length. □

Corollary 5.21.1. *If a finite group has even order, then it contains an element of order 2.*

Proposition 5.22. *Let G be a group and $a, g \in G$. Then $|aga^{-1}| = |g|$.*

PROOF: Since

$$(aga^{-1})^n = e \Leftrightarrow ag^na^{-1} = e$$

$$\Leftrightarrow g^n = e$$

□

Proposition 5.23. *Let G be a group and $g, h \in G$. Then $|gh| = |hg|$.*

PROOF: Since $|gh| = |ghgg^{-1}| = |hg|$. □

5.2 Generators

Definition 5.24 (Generator). Let G be a group and $a \in G$. We say a *generates* the group iff, for all $x \in G$, there exists an integer n such that $x^n = a$.

Proposition 5.25. *The integer m generates $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ if and only if $\gcd(m, n) = 1$.*

PROOF: By Corollary 5.16.2. \square

Corollary 5.25.1. *If p is prime then every non-zero element in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ is a generator.*

Chapter 6

Abelian Groups

Definition 6.1 (Abelian Group). A group is *Abelian* iff any two elements commute.

In an Abelian group G , we often denote the group operation by $+$, the identity element by 0 and the inverse of an element g by $-g$. We write ng for g^n ($g \in G, n \in \mathbb{Z}$).

Example 6.2. Every group of order ≤ 4 is Abelian.

Example 6.3. For any positive integer n , we have $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ is an Abelian group under addition.

Example 6.4. S_n is not Abelian for $n \geq 3$. If $x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ then $xy = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $yx = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

Proposition 6.5. Let G be a group. If $g^2 = e$ for all $g \in G$ then G is Abelian.

PROOF: For any $g, h \in G$ we have

$$ghgh = e$$

$$\therefore hgh = g \quad (\text{multiplying on the left by } g)$$

$$\therefore hg = gh \quad (\text{multiplying on the right by } h) \square$$

Proposition 6.6. Let G be an Abelian group. Let $g, h \in G$. If g has maximal finite order in G , and h has finite order, then $|h| \mid |g|$.

PROOF:

$\langle 1 \rangle 1$. ASSUME: for a contradiction $|h| \nmid |g|$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 2$. PICK a prime p such that $|g| = p^m r$, $|h| = p^n s$ where $p \nmid r$, $p \nmid s$ and $m < n$.

$\langle 1 \rangle 3$. $|g^{p^m} h^s| = p^n r$

PROOF: Proposition 5.19.

$\langle 1 \rangle 4$. $|g| < |g^{p^m} h^s|$

$\langle 1 \rangle 5$. Q.E.D.

PROOF: This contradicts the maximality of $|g|$.

\square

Part III

Linear Algebra

Definition 6.7. Let $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$ be the group of invertible $n \times n$ real matrices.