

# Groups

## Definition

**Definition** A non-empty set  $G$  with a binary operation (called multiplication)  $\cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G$  is called a group if

1. multiplication is closed in  $G$ ,

$$a \cdot b \in G \quad \forall a, b \in G;$$

2. multiplication is associative

$$(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c) \quad a, b, c \in G;$$

3. there is an identity element  $e$

$$e \cdot a = a \cdot e = a \quad \forall a \in G;$$

4. for every element  $a$ , there is an inverse  $a^{-1}$

$$a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1}a = e.$$

**Definition** A group is abelian if the multiplication is commutative.

**Definition** If group is finite then the number of elements is called the order of the group.

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## Examples

1. Groups:  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$  and  $(\mathbb{C}, +)$ , identity is 0 and inverse of  $a$  is  $-a$ .
2. Groups:  $(\mathbb{Q}^*, \times)$ ,  $(\mathbb{R}^*, \times)$  and  $(\mathbb{C}^*, \times)$ , identity is 1 and inverse of  $a$  is  $1/a$ .
3. Finite groups:
  - 3.1 Trivial  $G = \{e\}$ ,  $e \cdot e = 1$
  - 3.2  $G = \{e, a\}$ ,  $a^2 = e$
  - 3.3  $G = \{e, a, b\}$ ,  $ab = ba = e$
  - 3.4  $C_n = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$ ,  $a^n = e$
  - 3.5  $D_n$  generated by  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a^n = b^2 = e$  and  $ab = ba^{-1}$ .
4. Matrix Groups:  $(M_n, +)$ ,  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $O(n)$ ,  $SO(n)$ ,  $GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ ,  $U(n)$ ,  $SU(n)$
5. Permutation Group  $S_n$ .
6. Transformation Groups: Euclidean group  $E(n)$ , Lorentz group  $O(1, 3)$  etc.

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## Properties

1. Identity is unique
2. Inverse is unique
3. Cancellation Laws:  $ab = ac \implies b = c$  and  $ab = cb \implies a = c$
4.  $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$
5.  $(ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$
6. Rearrangement theorem: Each row of the multiplication table contains all elements. A row can't have an element appearing twice or more.

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6.  $GL(n) \supset O(n) \supset SO(n) \supset C_6 \supset C_3$

## Cosets

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**Theorem**  $\mathcal{O}(H) \mid \mathcal{O}(G)$  if  $G$  is finite.

In general, right coset  $Ha$  is not equal to  $aH$ . Example:  $H = \{e, \sigma\}$  in  $C_{3v}$ .

## Normal/Invariant Subgroups

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**Theorem**  $N$  is a normal subgroup in  $G$  iff product of two right cosets of  $N$  is a right coset of  $N$ .

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**Example**  $G = (\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .  $N = \{5k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \{\dots, -10, -5, 0, 5, 10, \dots\}$  is normal in  $G$ . The distinct cosets are  $N = N_0, N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4$  such that  $Np = \{5k + p \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . For example,  $N_2 = \{\dots, -3, 2, 7, 12, \dots\}$ . Then  $G/N = \{N_0, N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4\}$

# Homomorphism

**Definition** A mapping  $f$  from a group  $(G, \odot)$  to a group  $(\tilde{G}, \otimes)$  is called **homomorphism** if  $\forall a, b \in G, f(a \odot b) = f(a) \otimes f(b)$ . (For brevity,  $f(ab) = f(a)f(b)$ )



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**Definition** Two groups  $G$  and  $\bar{G}$  are **isomorphic** if there exists an isomorphism from  $G$  onto  $\bar{G}$ .