



# Lecture 4

## Subgroup & Cyclic Group & Lagrange's Theorem

# What you will learn in Lecture 4

## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

## 4.2 Cyclic Group (巡回群)

## 4.3 Lagrange's Theorem (ラグランジュの定理)

## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

Let us consider the groups  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  and  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ , where  $+$  is the usual addition of numbers, and note the following:

1. Both these groups have the same binary operation.
2.  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

The same is true for the groups  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  and  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ ;  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$  and  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ ;  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$  and  $(\mathbb{C}, +)$ .

This leads us to the concept of a **subgroup**. Before formally defining subgroups, let us also note the following:

Let  $(G, \circ)$  be a **group** and  $H$  be a **nonempty subset** of  $G$ . Then  $H$  is said to be **closed** under the **binary operation**  $\circ$  if  $a \circ b \in H$  for all  $a, b \in H$ .

Suppose  $H$  is **closed** under the **binary operation**  $\circ$ . Then the restriction of  $\circ$  to  $H \times H$  is a mapping from  $H \times H$  into  $H$ . Thus, the binary operation  $\circ$  defined on  $G$  induces a **binary operation** on  $H$ . We denote this induced binary operation on  $H$  by  $\circ$  also. Thus,  $(H, \circ)$  is a **mathematical system**.

It also follows that  $\circ$  is **associative** as a binary operation on  $H$ , i.e.,  $a \circ (b \circ c) = (a \circ b) \circ c$  for all  $a, b, c \in H$ .

If  $(H, \circ)$  is a **group**, then we call  $H$  a **subgroup** of  $G$ .

## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

### Subgroup

More formally, we have the following definition.

#### Definition 4.1

Let  $(G, \circ)$  be a group and  $H$  be a nonempty subset of  $G$ . If  $(H, \circ)$  is a group, then  $(H, \circ)$  is called a subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$ .

For example, consider the rational number group  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$  and its subgroups  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ . Now the identity elements of both these groups is 0.

Next, let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Also, the inverse of  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  as well as in  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $-a$ .

In other words, the inverse of  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  and the inverse of  $a$  in  $\mathbb{Q}$  is the same.

In general, we have the following result.

### Theorem 4.1

Let  $(G, \circ)$  be a group and  $(H, \circ)$  be a subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$ .

- (i) The identity elements of  $(H, \circ)$  and  $(G, \circ)$  are the same.
- (ii) If  $h \in H$ , then the inverse of  $h$  in  $H$  and the inverse of  $h$  in  $G$  is the same.

### Remark

If  $(G, \circ)$  is a group, then  $(\{e\}, \circ)$  and  $(G, \circ)$  are subgroups of  $(G, \circ)$ . These subgroups are called trivial subgroup (自明な部分群).

## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

### Example 4.1

Consider the following list of groups.

(i)  $(\{0\}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{C}, +)$ ,

(ii)  $(\{1\}, \cdot)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$ ,  $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$ ,  $(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$ ,

where  $+$  is the usual addition operation and  $\cdot$  is the usual multiplication operation.

**Each group is a subgroup of the group listed to its right.**

For example,  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Q}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{R}, +)$ , and  $(\mathbb{C}, +)$ , and  $(\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$  is a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}, \cdot)$ .



### Theorem 4.2

Let  $(G, \circ)$  be a group and  $H$  be a nonempty subset of  $G$ . Then  $(H, \circ)$  is a subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$  if and only if for all  $a, b \in H$ ,  $ab^{-1} \in H$ .

#### Proof:

Suppose  $(H, \circ)$  is a subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$ . Let  $a, b \in H$ . Because  $(H, \circ)$  is a subgroup, it is a group. Therefore,  $b \in H$  implies that  $b^{-1} \in H$ . Thus,  $ab^{-1} \in H$  because  $H$  is closed under the binary operation.

Conversely, suppose  $H$  is a nonempty subset of  $G$  such that  $a, b \in H$  implies  $ab^{-1} \in H$ . Because  $H \neq \emptyset$ , there exists  $a \in H$ . Now  $a, a^{-1} \in H$ . Therefore,  $e = aa^{-1} \in H$ , i.e.,  $H$  contains the identity. Next, let  $b \in H$ . Then  $e, b \in H$ , implies that  $b^{-1} = eb^{-1} \in H$ . Thus, every element of  $H$  has an inverse in  $H$ .

To show that  $H$  is closed under the binary operation, let  $a, b \in H$ . Then  $a, b^{-1} \in H$ . Thus,  $ab = a(b^{-1})^{-1} \in H$ .

Hence,  $H$  is closed under the binary operation. From the statements preceding Definition, associativity holds for  $H$ . Hence,  $(H, \circ)$  is a group, so  $(H, \circ)$  is subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$ .

**Example 4.2** Find all subgroups of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

**Solution:** Let  $(H, +)$  be a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ . Suppose  $H \neq \{0\}$ .

Let  $a$  be a nonzero element of  $H$ . Then  $-a \in H$ . Since either  $a$  or  $-a$  is a positive integer,  $H$  contains a positive integer. With the help of the principle of well-ordering, we can show that  $H$  contains a smallest positive integer. Let  $a$  be the smallest positive integer in  $H$ . We claim that  $H = \{na \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

Now  $na \in H$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and so  $\{na \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq H$ . On the other hand, let  $b \in H$ .

By the division algorithm, there exist  $c$  and  $r$  in  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $b = ca + r$ , where  $0 \leq r < a$ . Suppose  $r \neq 0$ . Then  $r = b - ca \in H$ . Thus,  $H$  contains a positive integer smaller than  $a$ , a contradiction.

Hence,  $r = 0$  and so  $b = ca \in \{na \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

This implies that  $H \subseteq \{na \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Thus,  $H = \{na \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  for some  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Also, for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the set  $T = \{nm \mid m \in \mathbb{Z}\} = n\mathbb{Z}$  generate a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

Hence,  $(n\mathbb{Z}, +)$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  are the subgroups of  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ .

#### Definition 4.2

Let  $H$  and  $L$  be nonempty subsets of  $G$  from a group  $(G, \circ)$ .  
The product of  $H$  and  $L$  is defined to be the set  
 $HL = \{hl \mid h \in H, l \in L\}$ .

#### Example 4.3

Consider the group of symmetries of the square.

Let  $H = \{r_{360}, d_1\}$  and  $L = \{r_{360}, h\}$ . Then  $H$  and  $L$  are subgroups of  $G$ . Now

$$HL = \{r_{360}r_{360}, r_{360}h, d_1r_{360}, d_1h\} = \{r_{360}, h, d_1, r_{90}\}.$$

Now  $hd_1 = r_{270} \notin HL$ , so  $HL$  is **not closed** under the binary operation.

Hence,  $HL$  is **not a subgroup** of the symmetries of the square. Also, note that

$$LH = \{r_{360}r_{360}, r_{360}d_1, hr_{360}, hd_1\} = \{r_{360}, d_1, h, r_{270}\},$$

And  $\langle H \cup L \rangle = \{r_{360}, r_{90}, r_{180}, r_{270}, h, v, d_1, d_2\}$ .

This example shows that in general the product of subgroups need not be a subgroup.

# 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

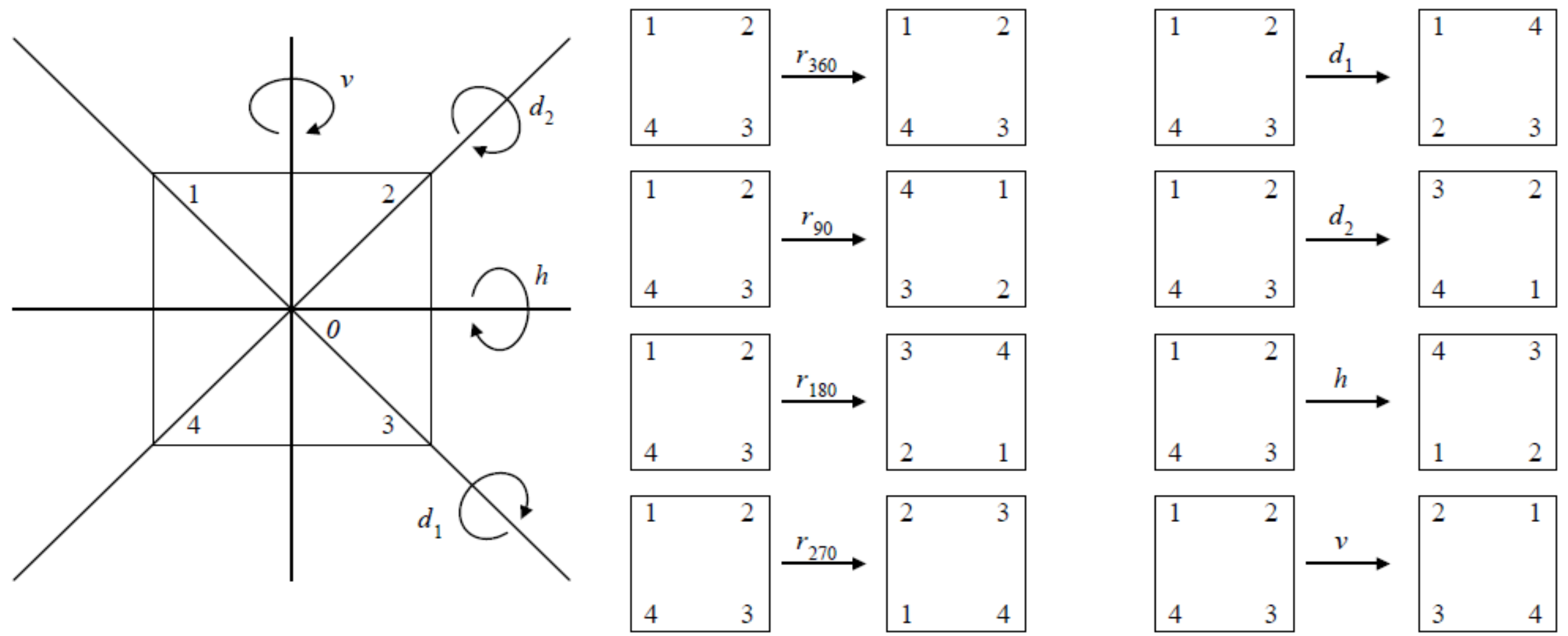
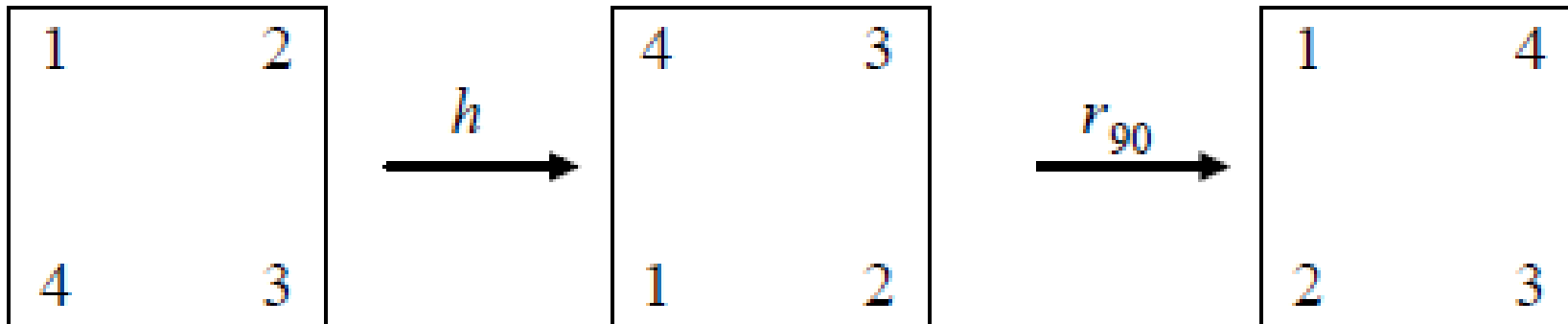


Figure. Rigid motions of a square in symmetry

## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

$$r_{90} \circ h$$



## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

The complete operation table for the operation  $\circ$  is as following

$\circ$	$r_{360}$	$r_{90}$	$r_{180}$	$r_{270}$	$h$	$v$	$d_1$	$d_2$
$r_{360}$	$r_{360}$	$r_{90}$	$r_{180}$	$r_{270}$	$h$	$v$	$d_1$	$d_2$
$r_{90}$	$r_{90}$	$r_{180}$	$r_{270}$	$r_{360}$	$d_1$	$d_2$	$v$	$h$
$r_{180}$	$r_{180}$	$r_{270}$	$r_{360}$	$r_{90}$	$v$	$h$	$d_2$	$d_1$
$r_{270}$	$r_{270}$	$r_{360}$	$r_{90}$	$r_{180}$	$d_2$	$d_1$	$h$	$v$
$h$	$h$	$d_2$	$v$	$d_1$	$r_{360}$	$r_{180}$	$r_{270}$	$r_{90}$
$v$	$v$	$d_1$	$h$	$d_2$	$r_{180}$	$r_{360}$	$r_{90}$	$r_{270}$
$d_1$	$d_1$	$h$	$d_2$	$v$	$r_{90}$	$r_{270}$	$r_{360}$	$r_{180}$
$d_2$	$d_2$	$v$	$d_1$	$h$	$r_{270}$	$r_{90}$	$r_{180}$	$r_{360}$

## 4.1 Subgroup (部分群)

### Subgroup

In the following theorem, we give a necessary and sufficient condition for the product of subgroups to be a subgroup.

### Theorem 4.3

Let  $(H, \circ)$  and  $(L, \circ)$  be subgroups of a group  $(G, \circ)$ . Then  $(HL, \circ)$  is a subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$  if and only if  $HL = LH$ .

### Corollary 3.2

If  $(H, \circ)$  and  $(L, \circ)$  are subgroups of a commutative group  $(G, \circ)$ , then  $(HL, \circ)$  is a subgroup of  $(G, \circ)$ .

## 4.2 Cyclic Group (巡回群)



In the previous section, we introduced the notion of a subgroup generated by a set. **Groups that are generated by a single element, called cyclic groups**, are of special importance. Cyclic groups are easier to study than any other group.

### Definition 4.3

A group  $(G, \circ)$  is called a **cyclic group** if there exists  $a \in G$  such that  
$$G = \langle a \rangle$$
where  $\langle a \rangle = \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .

Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  defines a cyclic group and  $b, c \in G$ . Then  $b = a^n$  and  $c = a^m$  for some  $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Now

$$bc = a^n a^m = a^{n+m} = a^{m+n} = a^m a^n = cb.$$

This shows that  $G$  is **commutative**. Hence, every cyclic group is **commutative**. We record this result in the following theorem.

### Theorem 4.4

Every cyclic group is commutative.

### Example 4.4

- (i)  $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$  is a cyclic group because  $\mathbb{Z} = \langle 1 \rangle$ .
- (ii)  $(\{na \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}, +)$  is a cyclic group, where  $a$  is any fixed element of  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

### Example 4.5

Consider the set  $G = \{e, a, b, c\}$ . Define  $\circ$  on  $G$  by means of the following operation table.

$\circ$	$e$	$a$	$b$	$c$
$e$	$e$	$a$	$b$	$c$
$a$	$a$	$e$	$c$	$b$
$b$	$b$	$c$	$e$	$a$
$c$	$c$	$b$	$a$	$e$

From the multiplication table, it follows that  $(G, \circ)$  is a **commutative** group. **However,  $G$  is NOT a cyclic group** because

$\langle e \rangle = \{e\}$ ,  $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a\}$ ,  $\langle b \rangle = \{e, b\}$ , and  $\langle c \rangle = \{e, c\}$

and each of these subgroups is properly contained in  $G$ .  $G$  is known as the **Klein 4-group** (クラインの四元群).

### Theorem 4.5

Let  $\langle a \rangle$  be a finite cyclic group of order  $n$ .  
Then  $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$ .

### Theorem 4.6

Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic.

### Corollary 3.2

Let  $G = \langle a \rangle$  be a cyclic group of order  $n$ ,  $n > 1$ , and  $H$  be a proper subgroup of  $G$ .

Then  $H = \langle a^k \rangle$  for some integer  $k$  such that  $k$  divides  $n$  and  $k > 1$ .  
Furthermore, the order  $|H|$  divides  $n$ .

## 4.3 Lagrange's Theorem

(ラグランジュの定理)

## 4.3 Lagrange's Theorem (ラグランジュの定理)

In the last section, we noted that the order of a subgroup of a finite cyclic group divides the order of the group (Corollary 4.2).

We will learn that this is a special case of a general result, called **Lagrange's theorem**, i.e., the order of a subgroup of a finite group divides the order of the group.

### History:

Lagrange proved this result in 1770, long before the creation of group theory, while working on the permutations of the roots of a polynomial equation. Lagrange's theorem is a basic theorem of finite group theory and is considered by some to be the most important result in finite group theory.

#### Definition 4.4

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a group  $G$  and  $a \in G$ . The sets  $aH = \{ah \mid h \in H\}$  and  $Ha = \{ha \mid h \in H\}$  are called the **left and right cosets (左剰余類と右剰余類)** of  $H$  in  $G$ , respectively. The element  $a$  is called a **representative** of  $aH$  and  $Ha$ .

If  $G$  is commutative, then of course we have  $aH = Ha$ .  
Observe that  $eH = H = He$  and that  $a = ae \in aH$  and  $a = ea \in Ha$ .



**Example 4.6** Consider the symmetric group  $S_3$  (Example 3.7).

$$(1) \quad H = \left\{ e, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

is a subgroup of  $S_3$ .

We now compute the left and right cosets of  $H$  in  $S_3$ . The left cosets of  $H$  in  $S_3$  are

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

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

and the right cosets of  $H$  in are

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

and

$$H \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = H \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = H \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Thus, for all  $a \in S_3$ ,  $aH = Ha$ .

$$(2) \quad H' = \left\{ e, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

is also a subgroup of  $S_3$ .

Now we compute the left and right cosets of  $H'$  in  $S_3$ . The left cosets of  $H'$  in  $S_3$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H' = H',$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} H' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H' = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\},$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} H' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} H' = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

and the right cosets of  $H'$  in  $S_3$  are

$$H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = H',$$

$$H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\},$$

and

$$H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

We see that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} H' \neq H' \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus, the left and right cosets of  $H'$  in  $S_3$  are not the same.

There are some interesting phenomena happening in the above example.

- We see that all left and right cosets of  $H$  in  $S_3$  have the same number of elements, namely, 3; that there are the same number of distinct left cosets of  $H$  in  $S_3$  as of right cosets, namely, 2; that the set of all left cosets and the set of all right cosets form partitions of  $S_3$ ; and, finally, that  $3 \cdot 2$  equals the order of  $S_3$ .
- Similar statements hold for the subgroup  $H'$ . We show, in the results to follow, that these phenomena hold in general.

## 4.3 Lagrange's Theorem (ラグランジュの定理)

The following theorem tells us when two left (right) cosets are equal. It is a result that is used often in the study of groups.

### Theorem 4.7

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a group  $G$  and  $a, b \in G$ . Then

- (i)  $aH = bH$  if and only if  $b^{-1}a \in H$ .
- (ii)  $Ha = Hb$  if and only if  $ab^{-1} \in H$ .

### Theorem 4.8

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a group  $G$ . Then for all  $a, b \in G$ , either  $aH = bH$  or  $aH \cap bH = \emptyset$  (i.e., two left cosets are either equal or they are disjoint). Similar result also satisfied for two right cosets.

#### Definition 4.5

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a group  $G$ . Then the number of distinct (相異なる) left (or right) cosets, written as  $[G:H]$ , of  $H$  in  $G$  is called the index of  $H$  in  $G$ .

### Theorem 4.9 (Lagrange's Theorem)

Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a finite group  $G$ . Then the order of  $H$  divides the order of  $G$ . In particular,

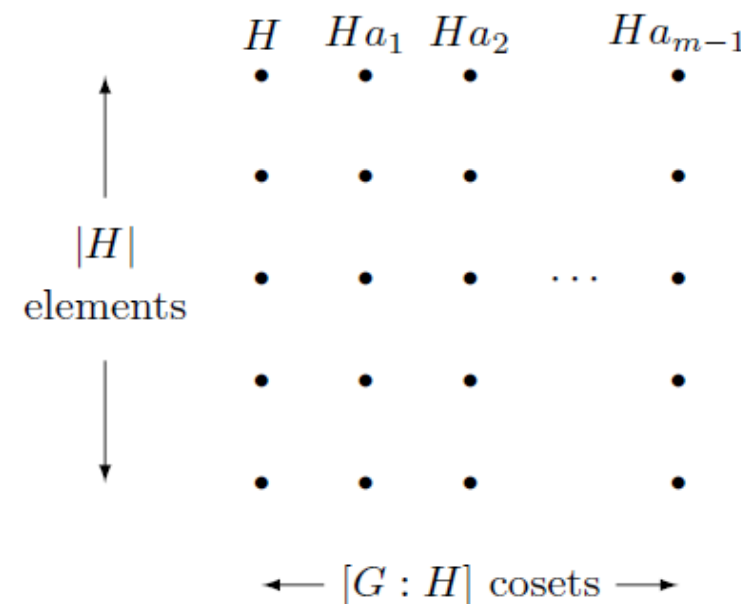
$$|G| = [G : H]|H|.$$

#### Proof:

Suppose that  $[G : H] = m$ . Every element of  $G$  is in a coset of  $H$ , and Theorem 4.8 tells us we can decompose  $G$  into a union of  $m$  pairwise disjoint cosets:

$$G = H \cup Ha_1 \cup Ha_2 \cup \cdots \cup Ha_{m-1}$$

But each of these cosets has  $|H|$  elements. Thus, there must be  $[G : H]|H|$  elements in  $G$  altogether.





### Theorem 4.10

Let  $H$  and  $L$  be finite subgroups of a group  $G$ . Then

$$|HL| = \frac{|H||L|}{|H \cap L|}$$

# Review for Lecture 4

- Subgroup (部分群)
- Trivial Subgroup (自明な部分群)
- Cyclic Group (巡回群)
- Left and Right Cosets (左剰余類と右剰余類)
- Lagrange's Theorem (ラグランジュの定理)

# Assignment

Please Check <https://github.com/uoaworks/Applied-Algebra>

## References

- [1] Thomas W. Judson etc. Abstract Algebra Theory and Applications, 2018
- [2] D. S. Malik, John N. Mordeson, M.K. Sen, Introduction to Abstract Algebra, 2007
- [3] (おすすめ) 松本 眞, 代数系への入門, <http://www.math.sci.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/~m-mat/TEACH/daisu-nyumon2014.pdf>
- [4] Wikipedia
- [5] Materials from internet.