

→ & do some reading too.

See lecture notes online: $N = \text{smallest normal subgroup containing } a b a^{-1} b^{-1} = \text{Ker}(p).$

Back to S_n :

Facts: (1) $|S_n| = n!$

(2) if $s_i = (i \ i+1)$ then $\{s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}\}$ generates S_n .

(3) $s_i^2 = e$, $s_i s_j = s_j s_i$ if $|i-j| \geq 2$, $s_i s_{i+1} s_i = s_{i+1} s_i s_{i+1}$ $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n-2$

This implies that if $\mathcal{G}_n = \{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1} \mid \begin{array}{l} \sigma_i^2 = e \\ \sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i \text{ if } |i-j| \geq 2 \\ \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \end{array} \}$

Then there is a surjective gr hom $\mathcal{G}_n \xrightarrow{\pi_n} S_n$ $\Rightarrow |\mathcal{G}_n| \geq n!$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{G}_n & \xrightarrow{\pi_n} & S_n \\ \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \psi \\ \sigma_i & \longmapsto & s_i \end{array}$$

We prove $\mathcal{G}_n \cong S_n$ by induction on n .

Base case $n=2$: $\mathcal{G}_2 = \langle \sigma \mid \sigma^2 = e \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \cong S_2$

Induction hypothesis: π_1, \dots, π_n are all iso's

Induction step: to prove: π_{n+1} is an iso $\Leftrightarrow |\mathcal{G}_{n+1}| = (n+1)!$.

$\{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \} \longleftarrow \text{generators of } \mathcal{G}_{n+1}$
 $\{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1} \}$ satisfies rels of \mathcal{G}_n $\left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} \{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \} \longleftarrow \text{generators of } \mathcal{G}_{n+1} \\ \{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1} \} \text{ satisfies rels of } \mathcal{G}_n \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} i_n: \mathcal{G}_n \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_{n+1} \\ \text{gr hom.} \end{array}$

$$G_n = \text{Image}(i_n) \leq \mathcal{G}_{n+1} \Rightarrow |G_n| \leq |\mathcal{G}_n| = n!$$

Claim: $|g_{n+1}/G_n| \leq n+1 \Rightarrow |g_{n+1}| \leq |G_n| (n+1) \leq (n+1)!$

Pf of Claim. Idea: $S_N/S_{N-1} \xrightarrow{\text{bij}} \{1, \dots, N\}$ since $S_N = S_{N-1} \cup (1N)S_{N-1} \cup (2N)S_{N-1} \cup \dots$

$$(1N) = \underbrace{s_1 s_2 \dots s_{N-2}}_{\cup S_{N-1}} s_{N-1} \underbrace{s_{N-2} \dots s_2 s_1}_{\cup S_{N-1}}$$

set $H_\ell = \sigma_\ell \sigma_{\ell+1} \dots \sigma_n G_n$ for $\ell=1, \dots, n$. $H_{n+1} = G_n$.

$$H_\ell = \pi_{n+1}^{-1}(\{\tau \in S_{n+1} \mid \tau(n+1) = \ell\})$$

Claim': $\{H_1, H_2, \dots, H_{n+1}\} = g_{n+1}/G_n$

Fun fact: If $X \subset G/H$ s.t. $gX \subset X \quad \forall g \in G$ then $X = G/H$.

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If $X \neq \emptyset$ & $g \in X$ then $gH = (hg^{-1})gH$.

$\sigma_k H_\ell = ?$ if $\ell = n+1$ $H_{n+1} = G_n$, $\sigma_k H_{n+1} = H_{n+1}$ if $1 \leq k \leq n-1$, $\sigma_n H_{n+1} = H_n$.

otherwise: $\sigma_k (\underbrace{\sigma_\ell \sigma_{\ell+1} \dots \sigma_n}_{H_\ell} G_n) = H_\ell$ if $k \leq \ell-2$.

$$\sigma_{\ell-1} H_\ell = H_{\ell-1} \quad \sigma_\ell H_\ell = H_{\ell+1}$$

if $k > \ell$, $\sigma_k (\sigma_\ell \sigma_{\ell+1} \dots \sigma_k \dots \sigma_{n-1} \sigma_n G_n)$

$$= \sigma_\ell \sigma_{\ell+1} \dots (\sigma_k \sigma_{k-1} \sigma_k) \dots \sigma_{n-1} \sigma_n G_n$$

$$= \sigma_\ell \sigma_{\ell+1} \dots \sigma_{k-1} \sigma_k \underbrace{\sigma_{k-1} \dots \sigma_{n-1} \sigma_n}_{\text{gets absorbed}} G_n$$

$$= H_\ell$$

Thus $|g_{n+1}/G_n| = n+1 \Rightarrow \pi_{n+1}$ is an iso. \square

Conclusion: S_n is isomorphic to G_n . it is presented by those generators & rel's.

Circular proof of $S_n \longrightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ is a gp-hom.
 $s_i \longrightarrow -1$

"Proof": $S_n \xrightarrow{\text{gp-hom}} GL_n(\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{\det} \mathbb{R}_{\neq 0}$
 $\sigma \mapsto X_\sigma, (X_\sigma)_{ij} = 1 \text{ if } j = \sigma(i)$
 0 otherwise

but to show \det is a gp-hom we use the fact that sign is a gp-hom.

Theorem: $\langle T_1, \dots, T_{n-1} \mid \begin{array}{l} T_i T_j = T_j T_i \text{ if } |i-j| \geq 2 \\ T_i T_{i+1} T_i = T_{i+1} T_i T_{i+1} \quad 1 \leq i \leq n-2 \end{array} \rangle$
 (Artin)

fundamental group of configuration space of n points in the plane.