

what can we have here & get the same answer?
 $N \rtimes_{\alpha} H \cong (H, N, \alpha)$ α can be changed to $T\alpha T^{-1}$ for some $T \in \text{Aut}_{\text{gp}}(N)$.
 i.e. $h \mapsto T\alpha(h)T^{-1}$
 $H \longrightarrow \text{Aut}_{\text{gp}}(N)$.

Lemma: If $\alpha_j(h)(n) = j(h)n j(h)^{-1}$ for some gp hom $j: H \rightarrow N$

then $N \rtimes_{\alpha_j} H \cong N \times H$.

PF $(n, h) \xrightarrow{f} (n \cdot j(h), h)$

f is a gp hom & it clearly has an inverse. \square

$$\begin{aligned} (n_1, h_1) \cdot_j (n_2, h_2) &= (n_1 \alpha_j(h_1)(n_2), h_1 h_2) \\ &= (n_1 j(h_1) n_2 j(h_1)^{-1}, h_1 h_2) \end{aligned}$$

$n_1 \dots$ it works out.

Group Cohomology^{*}.

Inner automorphisms: ^{of W .} conjugation by an element of W

Hölder's Program: classify all simple groups, see how

Put it together.

Defn: A group G is called simple if it has no nontrivial proper normal subgroups.

Ex: If G is abelian & simple then $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ for some prime p .

(Schur-type)

Lemma: G_1, G_2 are two groups, G_1 is simple, let $f: G_1 \xrightarrow{\text{gp hom}} G_2$.

then $\text{Ker}(f) = \{e\}$ or G_1

↑ ↑

nobody goes everybody
to identity does

Convention: $\{e\}$ is not considered simple (just like 1 is not prime).

Today: A_n is simple for $n \geq 5$

S_n : Symmetric group on n symbols

There is sign homomorphism $\epsilon: S_n \longrightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ s.t. $\epsilon(\text{2-cycle}) = -1$.

and $A_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Ker}(\epsilon) \trianglelefteq S_n$.

↑ index 2 = $|S_n/A_n| = |\{\pm 1\}|$.

every $\pi \in S_n$ is
a product of
transpositions.

$\epsilon(\ell\text{-cycle}) = (-1)^{\ell-1}$

Recall we proved ϵ is a gp hom by showing

$\sigma \tau = (\sigma \tau) \implies \epsilon(\sigma \tau) = \epsilon(\sigma) \epsilon(\tau)$

Recall we proved ϵ is a group homomorphism

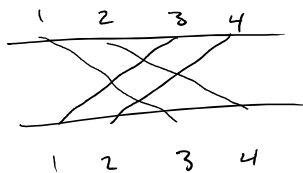
$$S_n = \langle s_1, \dots, s_n \mid \begin{array}{l} s_i^2 = e \\ s_i s_j = s_j s_i \text{ if } |i-j| \geq 2 \\ (s_i s_{i+1})^3 = e \end{array} \rangle$$

ϵ

H

but now we give a direct pf.

Idea: $\epsilon(\pi)$



nontransversally
monotonically.

count crossings

(even or odd)

$\downarrow \quad \downarrow$
 $\epsilon(\pi) = +1 \quad \epsilon(\pi) = -1$

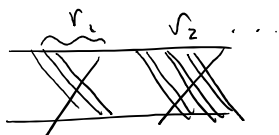
how many disjoint cycles

$$N(\pi) = (r_1 - 1) + (r_2 - 1) + \dots + (r_\ell - 1) = n - \ell$$

\downarrow

$\pi = \pi_1 \pi_2 \dots \pi_\ell$, π_i disjoint cycles of length r_i .

$$r_1 \geq r_2 \geq \dots \geq r_\ell, \quad \sum r_i = n.$$



Lemma: If $\pi = \tau_1 \dots \tau_\ell$, $q \equiv N(\pi) \pmod{2}$.

Proof

$$(a c_1 \dots c_k b d_1 \dots d_\ell) = (ab) (b d_1 \dots d_\ell) (a c_1 \dots c_k). \quad \text{(easy check of this identity in } S_n \text{)}$$

$\ell+k+2 \qquad \qquad \ell+1 \qquad \qquad k+1$

So we get a nice inductive formula:

$$N(ab\pi) = N(\pi) + 1 \text{ or } N(\pi) - 1$$

$$\equiv N(\pi) + 1 \pmod{2}$$

rest is induction on 2

□

Examples of A_n :

$$A_2 = \{e\}, \quad A_3 = \ker(s_3 \xrightarrow{f} \{\pm 1\}) \\ \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$$

$$A_4 = \left\{ e, \text{ all 3-cycles } \begin{matrix} \text{4 elements to choose not in cycle} \\ \times 2 \text{ directions} = 8. \end{matrix} \right. \\ \left. \begin{matrix} (12)(34) & (13)(24) & (14)(23) \\ \text{"x"} & \text{"y"} & \text{"z"} \end{matrix} \right\} \\ \nabla | \\ \{e, x, y, z\}.$$

So A_4 is not simple.

Theorem A_n is simple for $n \geq 5$.

- Steps:
- (i) A_n is generated by 3-cycles. ($n \geq 3$)
 - (ii) any two 3-cycles are conjugate to each other in A_n . ($n \geq 5$)
 - (iii) if $K \trianglelefteq A_n$ is nontrivial, it must contain a 3-cycle. ($n \geq 5$)

Pf (i) Every element in A_n can be written as an even # of transpositions.

$$(a\ b)(a\ b) = e$$

$$(a\ b)(a\ c) = (a\ c\ b)$$

$$(a\ b)(c\ d) = (a\ b\ c)(b\ c\ d)$$

□

$$(ii) \quad (a_1\ b_1\ c_1) = \gamma (a_2\ b_2\ c_2) \gamma^{-1} \quad \text{with } \gamma \in A_n.$$

$$\exists \sigma \in S_n \text{ s.t. } (a_1\ b_1\ c_1) = \sigma (a_2\ b_2\ c_2) \sigma^{-1}$$

$\ell(\sigma) = +1 \Rightarrow$ we are done

$\ell(\sigma) = -1 \Rightarrow$ we are not done.

find $x \neq y$, $x, y \notin \{a_1, b_1, c_1\}$

and change σ to $(x y) \cdot \sigma = \gamma$. □

(iii) Given $K \leq A_n$, $K \neq \{e\}$, choose $\sigma \in K \setminus \{e\}$ which maximizes
of fixed points = $|X^\sigma|$ = # of 1-cycles.

• $\sigma = (\underbrace{a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots}_{\text{one cycle of length } \geq 3}) \dots$

1: if $\sigma \neq (a_1 a_2 a_3)$, pick a_4, a_5 s.t. $\sigma(a_4) \neq a_4$, $\sigma(a_5) = a_5$

let $\tau = (a_3 a_4 a_5)$.

\rightarrow Ex: $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} \sigma^{-1}$ has more fixed points than σ .

So we have a contradiction.

2: $\sigma =$ product of disjoint transpositions... also get a contradiction if ℓ is too big.