

# Group Theory

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## 1 Basic Definitions and Results

### 1.1 Definitions and examples

The **order**  $|G|$  of a group is its cardinality. A finite group whose order is a power of a prime  $p$  is called a  **$p$ -group**

$C_n$  denote any cyclic group of order  $n$

**Example 1.1.** Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space over a field  $F$ . A bilinear form on  $V$  is a mapping  $\phi : V \times V \rightarrow F$  that is linear in each variable. An **automorphism** of such a  $\phi$  is an isomorphism  $\alpha : V \rightarrow V$  s.t.

$$\phi(\alpha v, \alpha w) = \phi(v, w) \text{ for all } v, w \in V$$

The automorphism of  $\phi$  form a group  $\text{Aut}(\phi)$ . Let  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  be a basis for  $V$ , and let

$$P = (\phi(e_i, e_j))_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

be the matrix of  $\phi$ . The choice of the basis identifies  $\text{Aut}(\phi)$  with the group of invertible matrices  $A$  s.t.

$$A^T \cdot P \cdot A = P$$

When  $\phi$  is symmetric, i.e.,

$$\phi(v, w) = \phi(w, v) \text{ all } v, w \in V$$

and nondegenerate,  $\text{Aut}(\phi)$  is called the **orthogonal group** of  $\phi$

**Theorem 1.1** (Cayley). *There is a canonical injective homomorphism*

$$\alpha : G \rightarrow \text{Sym}(G)$$

**Corollary 1.2.** *A finite group of order  $n$  can be realized as a subgroup of  $S_n$*

**Proposition 1.3.** *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a group  $G$*

1. *An element  $a \in G$  lies in a left coset  $C$  of  $H$  iff  $C = aH$*
2. *Two left cosets are either disjoint or equal*
3.  *$aH = bH$  iff  $a^{-1}b \in H$*
4. *Any two left cosets have the same number of elements*

The **index**  $(G : H)$  of  $H$  in  $G$  is defined to be the number of left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ . For example,  $(G : 1)$  is the order of  $G$

**Theorem 1.4** (Lagrange). *If  $G$  is finite, then*

$$(G : 1) = (G : H)(H : 1)$$

*Proof.* The left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$  form a partition of  $G$ , there are  $(G : H)$  of them □

**Corollary 1.5.** *The order of each element of a finite group divides the order of the group*

*Proof.* Consider  $H = \langle g \rangle$  □

**Proposition 1.6.** *For any subgroups  $H \supset K$  of  $G$*

$$(G : K) = (G : H)(H : K)$$

*Proof.*  $G = \coprod_{i \in I} g_i H$ , and  $H = \coprod_{j \in J} h_j K$  □

## 1.2 Normal subgroups

A subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  is **normal**, denoted  $N \triangleleft G$ , if  $gNg^{-1} = N$  for all  $g \in G$  it suffices to check that  $gNg^{-1} \subset N$

**Proposition 1.7.** *subgroup  $N$  of  $G$  is normal iff every left coset of  $N$  in  $G$  is also a right coset*

**Example 1.2.** 1. Every subgroup of index two is normal. Indeed, let  $g \in G \setminus H$ , then  $G = H \coprod gH = H \coprod Hg$

A group  $G$  is **simple** if it has no normal subgroups other than  $G$  and  $\{e\}$ .

**Proposition 1.8.** *If  $H$  and  $N$  are subgroups of  $G$  and  $N$  is normal, then  $HN$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . If  $H$  is also normal, then  $HN$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$*

Intersection of normal subgroups of a group is again a normal subgroup. Therefore we can define the **normal subgroup generated by a subset  $X$**  of a group  $G$  to be the intersection of the normal subgroups containing  $X$ . We say that a subset  $X$  of a group  $G$  is **normal** if  $gXg^{-1} \subset X$  for all  $g \in G$

**Lemma 1.9.** *If  $X$  is normal, then the subgroup  $\langle X \rangle$  generated by it is normal*

**Lemma 1.10.** *For any subset  $X$  of  $G$ , the subset  $\bigcup_{g \in G} gXg^{-1}$  is normal, and it is the smallest normal set containing  $X$*

**Proposition 1.11.** *The normal subgroup generated by a subset  $X$  of  $G$  is  $\langle \bigcup_{g \in G} gXg^{-1} \rangle$*

**Proposition 1.12.** *The map  $a \mapsto aN : G \rightarrow G/N$  has the following universal property: for any homomorphism  $\alpha : G \rightarrow G'$  of groups s.t.  $\alpha(N) = \{e\}$ , there exists a unique homomorphism  $G/N \rightarrow G'$  making the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
G & \xrightarrow{a \mapsto aN} & G/N \\
& \searrow \alpha & \downarrow \text{---} \\
& & G'
\end{array}$$

commute

*Proof.* Define  $\bar{\alpha} : G/N \rightarrow G'$ ,  $\bar{\alpha}(gN) = \alpha(g)$  □

### 1.3 Theorems concerning homomorphisms

The kernel of the homomorphism  $\det : \text{GL}_n(F) \rightarrow F^\times$  is the group of  $n \times n$  with determinant 1 - this group  $\text{SL}_n(F)$  is called the **special linear group of degree  $n$**

**Theorem 1.13** (HOMOMORPHISM THEOREM). *For any homomorphism  $\alpha : G \rightarrow G'$  of groups,  $\ker \alpha \triangleleft G$ ,  $\text{im } \alpha \leq G'$ , and  $\alpha$  factors in a natural way into the composite of a surjection, an isomorphism, and an injection*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
G & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & G' \\
\downarrow g \mapsto gN & & \uparrow \\
G/N & \xrightarrow[\substack{\sim \\ gN \mapsto \alpha(g)}} & I
\end{array}$$

**Theorem 1.14** (ISOMORPHISM THEOREM).  *$H \leq G$ ,  $N \triangleleft G$ . Then  $HN \leq G$ ,  $H \cap N \triangleleft G$*

$$h(H \cap N) \mapsto hN : H/H \cap N \rightarrow HN/N$$

is an isomorphism

link

$\bar{G}$  is a quotient group of  $G$

**Theorem 1.15** (CORRESPONDENCE THEOREM). *Let  $\alpha : G \twoheadrightarrow \bar{G}$  be a surjective homomorphism, and let  $N = \ker \alpha$ . Then there is a one-to-one correspondence*

$$\{\text{subgroups of } G \text{ containing } N\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{subgroups of } \bar{G}\}$$

*under which a subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  containing  $N$  corresponds to  $\bar{H} = \alpha(H)$  and a subgroup  $\bar{H}$  of  $\bar{G}$  corresponds to  $H = \alpha^{-1}(\bar{H})$ . Moreover, if  $H \leftrightarrow \bar{H}$  and  $H' \leftrightarrow \bar{H}'$ , then*

1.  $\bar{H} \subset \bar{H}' \Leftrightarrow H \subset H'$ , in which case  $(\bar{H}' : \bar{H}) = (H' : H)$

2.  $\bar{H} \triangleleft \bar{G} \Leftrightarrow H \triangleleft G$ , in which case  $\alpha$  induces an isomorphism

$$G/H \xrightarrow{\cong} \bar{G}/\bar{H}$$

**Corollary 1.16.**  $N \triangleleft G$ ; then there is a one-to-one correspondence between the set of subgroups of  $G$  containing  $N$  and the set of subgroups of  $G/N$ ,  $H \leftrightarrow H/N$ . Moreover  $H \triangleleft G \Leftrightarrow H/N \triangleleft G/N$ , in which case the homomorphism  $g \mapsto gN : G \rightarrow G/N$  induces an isomorphism

$$G/H \cong (G/N)/(H/N)$$

## 1.4 Direct products

Let  $G$  be a group, and let  $H_1, \dots, H_k$  be subgroups of  $G$ .  $G$  is a **direct product** of the subgroups  $H_i$  if the map

$$(h_1, \dots, h_k) \mapsto h_1 \dots h_k : H_1 \times \dots \times H_k \rightarrow G$$

is an isomorphism of groups

note that if  $g = h_1 \dots h_k$  and  $g' = h'_1 \dots h'_k$ , then

$$gg' = (h_1 h'_1) \dots (h_k h'_k)$$

**Proposition 1.17.** A group  $G$  is a direct product of subgroups  $H_1, H_2$  iff

1.  $G = H_1 H_2$
2.  $H_1 \cap H_2 = \{e\}$
3. every element of  $H_1$  commutes with every element of  $H_2$

*Proof.* 3 shows that  $(h_1, h_2) \mapsto h_1 h_2$  is a homomorphism, 2 injective, 1 surjective  $\square$

**Proposition 1.18.** A group  $G$  is a direct product of subgroups  $H_1, H_2$  iff

1.  $G = H_1 H_2$
2.  $H_1 \cap H_2 = \{e\}$
3.  $H_1, H_2 \triangleleft G$

*Proof.* The elements  $h_1, h_2$  of a group commute iff their commutator

$$[h_1, h_2] := (h_1 h_2)(h_2 h_1)^{-1}$$

is  $e$ . But

$$(h_1 h_2)(h_2 h_1)^{-1} = h_1 h_2 h_1^{-1} h_2^{-1} = \begin{cases} (h_1 h_2 h_1^{-1}) \cdot h_2^{-1} \\ h_1 \cdot (h_2 h_1^{-1} h_2^{-1}) \end{cases}$$

which is in  $H_2$  because  $H_2$  is normal, and is in  $H_1$  because  $H_1$  is normal  $\square$

**Proposition 1.19.** *A group  $G$  is a direct product of subgroups  $H_1, \dots, H_k$  iff*

1.  $G = H_1 \dots H_k$
2. for each  $j$ ,  $H_j \cap (H_1 \dots H_{j-1} H_{j+1} \dots H_k) = \{e\}$
3.  $H_1, \dots, H_k \triangleleft G$

## 1.5 Commutative groups

Let  $M$  be a commutative group. The subgroup  $\langle x_1, \dots, x_k \rangle$  of  $M$  generated by the elements  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  consists of the sums  $\sum m_i x_i$ ,  $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . A subset  $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$  of  $M$  is a **basis** of  $M$  if it generates  $M$  and

$$\sum m_i x_i = 0, m_i \in \mathbb{Z} \implies m_i x_i = 0 \text{ for every } i$$

then

$$M = \langle x_1 \rangle \oplus \dots \oplus \langle x_k \rangle$$

**Lemma 1.20.** *Let  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  generate  $M$ . For any  $c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $\gcd(c_1, \dots, c_k) = 1$ , there exist generators  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  for  $M$  s.t.  $y_1 = c_1 x_1 + \dots + c_k x_k$*

*Proof.* We argue by induction on  $s = c_1 + \dots + c_k$ . The lemma certainly holds if  $s = 1$ , and so we assume  $s > 1$ . Then, at least two  $c_i$  are nonzero, say,  $c_1 \geq c_2 > 0$ . Now

- $\{x_1, x_2 + x_1, x_3, \dots, x_k\}$  generates  $M$
- $\gcd(c_1 - c_2, c_2, c_3, \dots, c_k) = 1$
- $(c_1 - c_2) + c_2 + \dots + c_k < s$

and so, by induction, there exist generators  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  for  $M$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= (c_1 - c_2)x_1 + c_2(x_1 + x_2) + c_3x_3 + \dots + c_kx_k \\ &= c_1x_1 + \dots + c_kx_k \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 1.21.** *Every finitely generated commutative group  $M$  has a basis; hence it is a finite direct sum of cyclic groups*

*Proof.* Induction on the generators of  $M$ .

Among the generating sets  $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$  for  $M$  with  $k$  elements there is one for which the order of  $x_1$  is the smallest possible. We shall show that  $M$  is the direct sum of  $\langle x_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle$

If  $M$  is not the direct sum of  $\langle x_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle$ , then there exists a relation

$$m_1x_1 + \dots + m_kx_k = 0$$

with  $m_1x_1 \neq 0$ . After possibly changing the sign of some of the  $x_i$ , we may suppose that  $m_1, \dots, m_k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m_1 < \text{order}(x_1)$ . Let  $d = \gcd(m_1, \dots, m_k) > 0$ , and let  $c_i = m_i/d$ . According to the lemma, there exists a generating set  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  s.t.  $y_1 = c_1x_1 + \dots + c_kx_k$ . But

$$dy_1 = m_1x_1 + \dots + m_kx_k = 0$$

and  $d \leq m_1 < \text{order}(x_1)$ , and so this contradicts the choice of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$

□

**Corollary 1.22.** *A finite commutative group is cyclic if, for each  $n > 0$ , it contains at most  $n$  elements of order dividing  $n$*

*Proof.* After Theorem 1.21, we may assume that  $G = C_{n_1} \times \dots \times C_{n_r}$  with  $n_i \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $n$  divides  $n_i$  and  $n_j$  with  $i \neq j$ , then  $G$  has more than  $n$  elements of order dividing  $n$ . **First consider  $n = p$ , then in  $C_p$  there are  $p - 1$  elements of order dividing  $p$  by Lagrange theorem.**

**Now consider  $n = p_1p_2$ . If  $(k, p_1p_2) = 1$ , then order of  $k$  is  $p_1p_2$ . Hence there are at least  $p_1p_2 - p_1 - p_2 - 1$  elements. Check THIS!** Therefore the hypothesis implies that the  $n_i$  are relatively prime. Let  $a_i$  generate the  $i$ th factor. Then  $(a_1, \dots, a_r)$  has order  $n_1 \dots n_r$ , and so generates  $G$  □

**Example 1.3.** Let  $F$  be a field. The elements of order dividing  $n$  in  $F^\times$  are the roots of the polynomial  $X^n - 1$ . Because unique factorization holds in  $F[X]$ , there are at most  $n$  of these, and so corollary shows that every finite subgroup of  $F^\times$  is cyclic

**Theorem 1.23.** *A nonzero finitely generated commutative group  $M$  can be expressed*

$$M \approx C_{n_1} \times \cdots \times C_{n_s} \times C_\infty^r$$

*for certain integers  $n_1, \dots, n_s \geq 2$  and  $r \geq 0$ . Moreover*

1.  *$r$  is uniquely determined by  $M$*
2. *the  $n_i$  can be chosen so that  $n_1 \geq 2$  and  $n_1 \mid n_2, \dots, n_{s-1} \mid n_s$ , and then they are uniquely determined by  $M$*
3. *the  $n_i$  can be chosen to be powers of prime numbers, and then they are uniquely determined by  $M$*

The number  $r$  is called the **rank** of  $M$ . By  $r$  being uniquely determined by  $M$ , we mean that two decompositions of  $M$  of the form , the number of copies of  $C_\infty$  will be the same. The integers in (2) are called the **invariant factors** of  $M$ . Statement (3) says that  $M$  can be expressed

$$M \approx C_{p_1^{e_1}} \times \cdots \times C_{p_t^{e_t}} \times C_\infty^r, \quad e_i \geq 1$$

for certain prime powers  $p_i^{e_i}$ , and that the integers  $p_1^{e_1}, \dots, p_t^{e_t}$  are uniquely determined by  $M$ ; they are called the **elementary divisors** of  $M$

*Proof.* The first assertion is a restatement of Theorem 1.21

1. For a prime  $p$  not dividing any of the  $n_i$

$$M/pM \approx (C_\infty/pC_\infty)^r \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^r$$

and so  $r$  is the dimension of  $M/pM$  as an  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -vector space **suppose  $C_n = \langle a \rangle$  and  $f : C_n \rightarrow pC_n : a \mapsto a^p$ . Since  $(p, n) = 1, |a^p| = n$ . Thus this is an isomorphism**

2. 3. If  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ , then  $C_m \times C_n$  contains an element of order  $mn$ , and so

$$C_m \times C_n \approx C_{mn}$$

In this way we can decompose  $C_{n_i}$  into products of cyclic groups of prime power order. Then we can construct what we want

To prove the uniqueness of (2) and (3), we can replace  $M$  with its torsion subgroup (and so assume  $r = 0$ ).

uniqueness of elementary divisors is clear.



$n_s$  is the smallest integer  $> 0$  s.t.  $n_s M = 0$ ;  $n_{s-1}$  is the smallest integer  $> 0$  s.t.  $n_{s-1} M$  is cyclic;  $n_{s-2}$  is the smallest integer s.t.  $n_{s-2} M$  can be expressed as a product of two cyclic groups, and so on  
in the end, we will get a factoring like

$$\begin{array}{cccc} C_{p_1}^{r_1} & C_{p_1}^{r_2} & C_{p_1}^{r_3} & C_{p_1}^{r_4} \\ C_{p_2}^{s_1} & C_{p_2}^{s_2} & & \\ C_{p_3}^{t_1} & C_{p_3}^{t_2} & C_{p_3}^{t_3} & \end{array}$$

and get out invariant factors

□

## 1.6 The order of $ab$

**Theorem 1.24.** *For any integers  $m, n, r > 1$ , there exists a finite group  $G$  with elements  $a$  and  $b$  s.t.  $a$  has order  $m$ ,  $b$  has order  $n$ , and  $ab$  has order  $r$*

*Proof.* We shall show that, for a suitable prime power  $q$ , there exist elements  $a$  and  $b$  of  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$  s.t.  $a, b$  and  $ab$  have orders  $2m, 2n$  and  $2r$  respectively. As  $-I$  is the unique element of order 2 in  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , the image of  $a, b, ab$  in  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)/\{\pm I\}$  will then have orders  $m, n$  and  $r$  as required.

Let  $p$  be the prime number not dividing  $2mnr$ . Then  $p$  is a unit in the finite ring  $\mathbb{Z}/2mnr\mathbb{Z}$ , and so some power of it,  $q$  say, is 1 in the ring. This means that  $2mnr$  divides  $q - 1$ . As the group  $\mathbb{F}_q^\times$  has order  $q - 1$  and is cyclic (1.3), there exist element  $u, v, w \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$  having orders  $2m, 2n$  and  $2r$  respectively. Let

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} u & 1 \\ 0 & u^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q) \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} v & 0 \\ t & v^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$$

where  $t$  has been chosen so that

$$uv + t + u^{-1}v^{-1} = w + w^{-1}$$

The characteristic polynomial of  $a$  is  $(X - u)(X - u^{-1})$

□

## 1.7 Exercises

*Exercise 1.7.1.* Let  $n = n_1 + \dots + n_r$  be a partition of the positive integer  $n$ . Use Lagrange's theorem to show that  $n!$  is divisible by  $\prod_{i=1}^r n_i!$

*Proof.*  $n_1, \dots, n_r$  is a partition of  $n$  elements, and  $S_{n_i}$  is the permutation group of each part.

Apparently each  $S_{n_i}$  is normal. Thus  $S_{n_1} \dots S_{n_r}$  is a subgroup of  $S$ . Also  $S_{n_i} \cap S_{n_j} = \{\text{id}\}$ . Therefore  $S_{n_1} \dots S_{n_r} \cong S_{n_1} \times \dots \times S_{n_r}$ .  $\square$

*Exercise 1.7.2.* Let  $N \triangleleft G$  of index  $n$ . Show that  $g \in G \Rightarrow g^n \in N$

*Proof.* Because the group  $G/N$  has order  $n$ ,  $(gN)^n = 1$  for every  $g \in G$ .  $\square$

## 2 Free Groups and Presentations; Coxeter Groups

### 2.1 Free monoids

Let  $X = \{a, b, c, \dots\}$ . A **word** is a finite sequence of symbols from  $X$ . Empty sequence is denoted by 1. Write  $SX$  for the set of words together with the binary concatenation. Then  $SX$  is a monoid, called the **free monoid** on  $X$

$X \rightarrow SX$  has the following universal property: for any map of sets  $\alpha : X \rightarrow S$  from  $X$  to a monoid  $S$ , there exists a unique homomorphism  $SX \rightarrow S$  making the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{a \mapsto a} & SX \\ & \searrow \alpha & \downarrow \\ & & S \end{array}$$

commute

### 2.2 Free groups

We want to construct a group  $FX$  containing  $X$  and having the same universal property. Define

$$X' = \{a, a^{-1}, b, b^{-1}, \dots\}$$

Let  $W'$  be the set of words using symbols from  $X'$ . A word is **reduced** if it contains no pairs of the form  $aa^{-1}$  or  $a^{-1}a$ . Starting with a word  $w$ , we can perform a finite sequence of cancellations to arrive at a reduced word, which will be called the **reduced form**  $w_0$  of  $w$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *There is only one reduced form of a word*

*Proof.* Induction on the length of the word  $w$ . If  $w$  is reduced, there is nothing to prove. Otherwise a pair of the form  $a_0 a_0^{-1}$  or  $a_0^{-1} a_0$  occurs - assume the first

Observe that any two reduced forms of  $w$  obtained by a sequence of cancellations in which  $a_0 a_0^{-1}$  is cancelled first are equal, because the induction hypothesis can be applied to the shorter word.

Next observed that any reduced forms of  $w$  obtained by a sequence of cancellations where  $a_0 a_0^{-1}$  is cancelled at some point are equal, because the result of such a sequence of cancellations will not be affected if  $a_0 a_0^{-1}$  is cancelled first

finally consider a reduced form  $w_0$  obtained by a sequence where no cancellation cancels  $a_0 a_0^{-1}$  directly. Since  $a_0 a_0^{-1}$  doesn't remain in  $w_0$ , at least one of  $a_0$  or  $a_0^{-1}$  is cancelled. But the word obtained after this cancellation is the same as if our original pair were cancelled  $\square$

$w, w'$  are **equivalent**, denoted  $w \sim w'$ , if they have the same reduced form

**Proposition 2.2.** *products of equivalent words are equivalent, i.e.,*

$$w \sim w', v \sim v' \Rightarrow wv \sim w'v'$$

Let  $FX$  be the set of equivalence classes of words. Proposition 2.2 shows that the binary operation on  $W'$  defines a binary operation on  $FX$ , which obviously makes it into a monoid. It also has inverses. Thus  $FX$  is a group, called the **free group**

**Proposition 2.3.** *For any map of sets  $\alpha : X \rightarrow G$  from  $X$  to a group  $G$ , there exists a unique homomorphism  $FX \rightarrow G$  making the following diagram commute*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{a \mapsto a} & FX \\ & \searrow \alpha & \downarrow \\ & & G \end{array}$$

*Proof.* Consider a map  $\alpha : X \rightarrow G$ , and extend it to  $X' \rightarrow G$  letting  $\alpha(a^{-1}) = \alpha(a)^{-1}$ . Because  $G$  is a monoid,  $\alpha$  extends to a homomorphism of monoids  $SX' \rightarrow G$ . This map will send equivalent words to the same element of  $G$ , and so will factor through  $FX = SX' / \sim$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.4.** *Every group is a quotient of a free group*

*Proof.* Choose a set  $X$  of generators for  $G$  (e.g.  $X = G$ ), and let  $F$  be the free group generated by  $X$ . According to 2.3 the map  $a \mapsto a : X \rightarrow G$  extends to a homomorphism  $F \rightarrow G$ , and the image, being a subgroup containing  $X$ , must equal  $G$   $\square$

**Theorem 2.5** (Nielsen-Schreier). *Subgroups of free groups are free*

Two free groups  $FX$  and  $FY$  are isomorphic iff  $|X| = |Y|$ . Thus **rank** of a free group  $G$  to be the cardinality of any free generating set (subset  $X$  of  $G$  for which the homomorphism  $FX \rightarrow G$  given by 2.3 is an isomorphism)

## 2.3 Generators and relations

Consider a set  $X$  and a set  $R$  of words made up of symbols in  $X'$ . Each element of  $R$  represents an element of the free group  $FX$ , and the quotient  $G$  of  $FX$  by the normal subgroup generated by these elements is said to have  $X$  as **generators** and  $R$  as **relations**.  $(X, R)$  is a **presentation** for  $G$ , and denotes  $G$  by  $\langle X \mid R \rangle$

**Proposition 2.6.**  $G = \langle X \mid R \rangle$ , for any group  $H$  and map  $\alpha : X \rightarrow H$  sending each element of  $R$  to 1, there exists a unique homomorphism  $G \rightarrow H$  making the diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & \xrightarrow{a \mapsto a} & G \\
 & \searrow \alpha & \downarrow \\
 & & H
 \end{array}$$
  

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & X & \xrightarrow{\iota} & FX & \longrightarrow & FX/(\iota R) = G \\
 \text{Proof.} & & \searrow & & \downarrow & & \swarrow \\
 & & & & H & & 
 \end{array}$$

$\square$

## 2.4 Finitely presented groups

A group is **finitely presented** if it admits a presentation  $(X, R)$  with both  $X$  and  $R$  finite

**Example 2.1.** Consider a finite group  $G$ . Let  $X = G$ , and let  $R$  be the set of words

$$\{abc^{-1} \mid ab = c\}$$

$(X, R)$  is a presentation of  $G$ , and so  $G$  is finitely presented: let  $G' = \langle X \mid R \rangle$ . The extension of  $a \mapsto a : X \rightarrow G$  to  $FX$  sends each element of  $R$  to 1, and therefore defines a homomorphism  $G' \rightarrow G$ , which is obviously surjective. But every element of  $G'$  is represented by an element of  $X$ , and so  $|G'| \leq |G|$ . Therefore the homomorphism is bijective

## 2.5 Coxeter groups

A **Coxeter system** is a pair  $(G, S)$  consisting of a group  $G$  and a set of generators  $S$  for  $G$  subject only to relations of the form  $(st)^{m(s,t)} = 1$

$$\begin{cases} m(s, s) = 1 \text{ for all } s \\ m(s, t) \geq 2 \\ m(s, t) = m(t, s) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

When no relation occurs between  $s$  and  $t$ , we set  $m(s, t) = \infty$ . Thus a Coxeter system is defined by a set  $S$  and a mapping

$$m : S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$$

satisfying (1), and the group  $G = \langle S \mid R \rangle$  where

$$R = \{(st)^{m(s,t)} \mid m(s, t) \neq \infty\}$$

The **Coxeter groups** are those that arise as part of a Coxeter system. The cardinality of  $S$  is called the **rank** of the Coxeter system

## 2.6 Exercises

*Exercise 2.6.1.* Let  $D_n = \langle a, b \mid a^n, b^2, abab \rangle$  be the  $n$ th dihedral group. If  $n$  is odd, prove that  $D_{2n} \approx \langle a^n \rangle \times \langle a^2, b \rangle$ , and hence that  $D_{2n} \approx C_2 \times D_n$

*Proof.* first,  $ab(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = ab(b^{-1}a^{-1})(abab) = abab = e$ , hence  $D_n$  is commutative for any  $n$ . Since  $n$  is odd,  $(n, 2) = 1$  and so  $D_{2n} \approx C_2 \times C_n$   $\square$

## 3 TODO skip and problems

1.6 2.5