

Algebra I

# Group Theory

Book 2

Transpositions  $(ij)$  are odd permutations.

$$(123456789) = (19)(18)(17)(16)(15)(14)(13)(12)$$

A  $k$ -cycle is a product of  $k-1$  transpositions.

If  $k$  is even, this is odd; and vice versa.

A cycle of odd length is an even permutation;  
 even .. .. odd

If  $\alpha$  is a product of an even number of transpositions, then  $\alpha$  is an even permutation.  
 .. .. odd .. .. odd

Permutations in  $S_5$ :

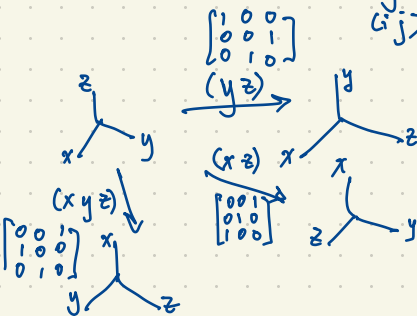
Even	
$()$	1
$(ijk)$	20
$(ijklm)$	24
$(ij)(kl)$	15
	<hr/>
	60

Odd	
$(ij)$	10
$(ijkl)$	30
$(ijk)(lm)$	20
	<hr/>
	60

$$|S_5| = 120$$

$$A_5 = \{ \text{even permutations in } S_5 \}$$

$$|A_5| = 60$$



An even permutation of the coordinate axis in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an orientation-preserving transformation.

An odd permutation of the coordinate axis in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is an orientation-reversing transformation.

If  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is a linear transformation then

$$\det T \begin{cases} = 0 & \text{if } T \text{ is not invertible} \\ > 0 & \text{preserves orientation} \\ < 0 & \text{reverses} \end{cases}$$

A permutation  $\alpha \in S_n$  can be expressed as a product of transpositions.

If  $\alpha$  is a product of an even number of transpositions, then  $\alpha$  is even.

In  $S_3$ :

$(13)(12)(13)(23)(23)(12)(23) = (123)$  says  $(123)$  is an even permutation.

$S_3 \cong \langle \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rangle \cong$  dihedral group of order 6  
(symmetry group of an equilateral triangle)

Groups of order 2

$S_2 \cong \{0, 1\} \pmod 2$  under addition  $\cong \langle -1 \rangle$  under multiplication

n	no. of groups of order n up to isomorphism
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	2
5	1
6	2
7	1
8	5

o	(1)	(12)	+	0	1	.	1	-1
(1)	(1)	(12)	0	0	1	1	1	-1
(12)	(12)	(1)	1	1	0	-1	-1	1



has a cyclic symmetry group of order 4



has an abelian symmetry group of order 4 which is not cyclic (the Klein four-group)

Cayley tables of groups of order 2 all "look the same"

Theorem Any two groups of prime order are isomorphic; they are cyclic of order p.

Eg.  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1, 2\}$  (under addition mod 3) is isomorphic to  $A_3 = \langle (123) \rangle = \{(), (123), (132)\}$  and  $\{1, \omega, \omega^2\}$  under multiplication,  $\omega = \frac{-1+i\sqrt{3}}{2} = e^{2\pi i/3}$

$\oplus$	0	1	2
0	0	1	2
1	1	2	0
2	2	0	1

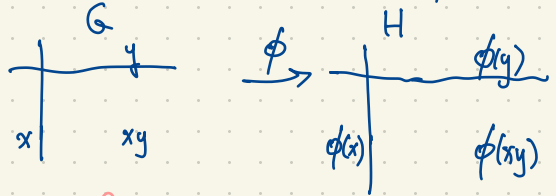
  

$\circ$	$()$	$(123)$	$(132)$
$()$	$()$	$(123)$	$(132)$
$(123)$	$(123)$	$(132)$	$()$
$(132)$	$(132)$	$()$	$(123)$

$\cdot$	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$
1	1	$\omega$	$\omega^2$
$\omega$	$\omega$	$\omega^2$	1
$\omega^2$	$\omega^2$	1	$\omega$



We say two groups  $G, H$  are isomorphic ( $G \cong H$ ) if there exists a bijection  $\phi: G \rightarrow H$  such that  $\phi(xy) = \phi(x)\phi(y)$



operation in  $G$       operation in  $H$

An isomorphism  $\phi: \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow A_3$  is a bijection satisfying  $\phi(x+y) = \phi(x)\phi(y)$

An isomorphism  $\phi: \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{\text{under addition}} (0, \infty) \xrightarrow{\text{under multiplication}}$  is defined by  $\phi(x) = e^x$   
 $e^{x+y} = e^x \cdot e^y$

$\mathbb{R} \not\cong \mathbb{R}^*$   
 since  $\mathbb{R}$  (reals under addition) has only one element of finite order whereas  $\mathbb{R}^*$  has two elements of finite order:  $\pm 1$ .

(subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}^* = (-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$ )  
 $\ln = \phi^{-1}: (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

+	0	1	2
0	0	1	2
1	1	2	0
2	2	0	1

is isomorphic to

*	a	b	c
a	b	c	a
b	c	a	b
c	a	b	c

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(0) &= c \\ \phi(1) &= a \\ \phi(2) &= b \end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{c} * \\ \begin{array}{c|ccc} & c & a & b \\ \hline c & c & a & b \\ a & a & b & c \\ b & b & c & a \end{array} \end{array}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(0) &= c \\ \phi(1) &= b \\ \phi(2) &= a \end{aligned} \quad \begin{array}{c} * \\ \begin{array}{c|ccc} & c & b & a \\ \hline c & c & b & a \\ b & b & a & c \\ a & a & c & b \end{array} \end{array}$$

$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$

Every group of order 1 is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/1\mathbb{Z}$   
 ... .. 2 ... ..  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

+	0	1
0	0	1
1	1	0

(trivial group  $\{1\}$ )

	c
a	ac
b	bc

If  $ac=bc$  then multiply both sides by  $c^{-1}$  on the right  
 to get  $(ac)c^{-1} = (bc)c^{-1}$   
 $a(cc^{-1}) = b(cc^{-1})$   
 $a1 = b1$   
 $a = b$

	e	a	b
e	e	a	b
a	a	b	e
b	b	e	a

Every group of order 3 is cyclic (isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$  under addition).

	e	a	b	c
e	e	a	b	c
a	a	e	c	b
b	b	c	e	a
c	c	b	a	e

Klein four-group

	e	a	b	c
e	e	a	b	c
a	a	b	c	e
b	b	c	e	a
c	c	e	a	b

Cyclic group of order 4

Two cases: either all <sup>non-identity</sup> elements of  $G$  have order 2, or  $G$  has an element not of order 2.

Theorem: There are exactly two groups of order 4 up to isomorphism: the Klein four-group and the cyclic group of order 4.

	e	a	b	c	d
e	e	a	b	c	d
a	a	b	c	d	e
b	b	c	d	e	a
c	c	d	e	a	b
d	d	e	a	b	c

cyclic group of order 5

$$\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, a^3, a^4\}$$

$\begin{matrix} & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ & b & c & d \end{matrix}$

	e	a	b	c	d
e	e	a	b	c	d
a	a	e	c	d	b
b	b	c	d	a	e
c	c	d	e	b	a
d	d	b	a	e	c

$c$  is a left inverse for  $b$  ( $cb=e$ ) but not a right inverse for  $b$  ( $bc=a$ ).

is not a group!

It is a quasigroup, in fact since it has an identity  $e$ , it is a loop (its Cayley table is a Latin square: each row/column is a permutation of  $e, a, b, c, d$ ).

This loop is not associative eg.  $(ca)d = dd = c$   
 $c(ad) = cb = e$

Theorem If every <sup>non-identity</sup> element of a group  $G$  has order 2, then  $G$  is abelian.

Proof (Note:  $x^2=e$  = identity for every  $x \in G$ .)

Let  $x, y \in G$ . Then  $(xy)^2 = xyxy = e$  so

$$yx = \underbrace{x(xyxy)}_{x^2=e} \underbrace{y}_{y^2=e} = xey = xy. \quad \square$$

$\curvearrowright$  In such groups,  $x^{-1} = x$  for all  $x \in G$ .

## Shoe-Sock Theorem

In every group  $G$ ,  
with identity  $1$ , for  $x, y \in G$  we have  $(xy)^{-1} = y^{-1}x^{-1}$ .

Proof  $(y^{-1}x^{-1})(xy) = y^{-1}1y = 1$  and  $(xy)(y^{-1}x^{-1}) = 1$ .  $\square$

Warning:  $(xy)^{-1} \neq x^{-1}y^{-1}$  in general.

	e	a	b	c
e	e	a	b	c
a	a	e	c	b
b	b	c	e	a
c	c	b	a	e

Klein  
four-group

	e	a	b	c
e	e	a	b	c
a	a	b	c	e
b	b	c	e	a
c	c	e	a	b

Cyclic group  
of order 4

Write the rows of the Cayley table as permutations of  $\overset{1}{e}, \overset{2}{a}, \overset{3}{b}, \overset{4}{c}$ :  
 $\{(1), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$  is a Klein four group  
as a subgroup of  $S_4$ .

Gives  $\{(1), (1234), (13)(24), (1432)\}$  as a subgroup  
of  $S_4$ .

Theorem (Cayley Representation Theorem)  
Every finite group  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$   
where  $n = |G|$ .

By the way, every finite group  $G$  is also isomorphic to  
a group of matrices under multiplication.

Theorem If  $G$  is a finite group of order  $n$ , then every element  $g \in G$  has order dividing  $n$ .  
(If  $g \in G$  then  $|g| \mid n$ .)

Eg.  $S_4$  has elements of order 1, 2, 3, 4. These orders of elements divide  $|S_4| = 24$ .

$S_5$  has elements of order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (divisors of  $|S_5| = 120$ ).

Proof In the general case this follows from a later theorem, Lagrange's Theorem. Here let's prove the theorem in the special case that  $G$  is abelian. (We have already proved the result for cyclic groups.)

Consider the product of all the group elements  $\pi = g_1 g_2 \dots g_n$  where  $G = \{g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n\}$ ,  $g_1 = 1$ .

Note: since  $G$  is abelian,  $\pi$  is well-defined; it doesn't depend on what order we list the elements  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$ . Pick  $a \in G$ . (So  $a \in \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ .) The elements  $ag_1, ag_2, \dots, ag_n$

are again all the elements of  $G$  so

$$(ag_1)(ag_2)(ag_3) \dots (ag_n) = \pi = a^n g_1 g_2 \dots g_n = a^n \pi$$

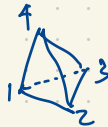
so  $a^n = 1$  and  $k = |a|$  must divide  $n$ .  $\square$

Lagrange's Theorem If  $G$  is any finite group of order  $n$ , and  $H \leq G$  (i.e.  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ ) then  $|H| \mid n$ .

This generalizes the previous statement: if  $g \in G$  then by Lagrange's Theorem,  $| \langle g \rangle | = |g| \mid |G|$ .

Eg.  $|A_4| = \frac{1}{2} |S_4| = 12$ ,  $A_4 = \{ (1), (123), (124), (132), (134), (142), (143), (234), (243), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23) \}$ .

The symmetry group of a regular tetrahedron



is isomorphic to  $S_4$ .

The rotational symmetry group of the regular tetrahedron (the direct isometry group, consisting of those symmetries that preserve orientation) is isomorphic to  $A_4$ .



$$A_4 = \{(), (123), (124), (132), (134), (142), (143), (234), (243), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}.$$

Subgroups of  $A_4$  have order 1, 2, 3, 4.

Elements of  $A_4$  have order 1, 2, 3.

Divisors of  $|A_4| = 12$  are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12.

$$\langle (243), (12)(34) \rangle = \{(), (243), (12)(34), (234), (142), (124), \dots\} = A_4.$$

$$(243)(12)(34) = (142)$$

$\{(), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$  is the Klein four-group, a subgroup of  $A_4$ .

Question: How many subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are there containing 4? (Note:  $\mathbb{Z}$  is an additive group.)

Answer: There are three subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  containing 4, namely  $\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $2\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $4\mathbb{Z}$ .

$\mathbb{Z}$  has infinitely subgroups: one finite subgroup  $\{0\}$  and all the other subgroups are infinite.

There are infinite subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  containing 4 but not infinitely many subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  containing 4.

Note: For every cyclic group  $G$ , all subgroups of  $G$  are cyclic; they are generated by powers of the generator of  $G$ .

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots\}$$

$$2\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -6, -4, -2, 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, \dots\}$$

$$4\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, 12, \dots\}$$

$$-4\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -8, -4, 0, 4, 8, 12, \dots\}$$

Ex.  $G = \langle g \rangle$  where  $|g| = \infty$  i.e.  $|G| = |\langle g \rangle| = |g| = \infty$ .

$= \{ \dots, g^{-3}, g^{-2}, g^{-1}, 1, g, g^2, g^3, \dots \}$  with no repeats.

1 is the identity

$$g^i g^j = g^{i+j} = g^j g^i$$

How many subgroups of  $G = \langle g \rangle$  contain  $g^4$ ? Three:  $\langle g \rangle, \langle g^2 \rangle, \langle g^4 \rangle$ .

$$G = \{ \dots, g^{-3}, g^{-2}, g^{-1}, 1, g, g^2, g^3, g^4, \dots \}$$

$$\langle g^2 \rangle = \{ \dots, g^6, g^4, g^2, 1, g^2, g^4, g^6, \dots \}$$

$$\langle g^4 \rangle = \{ \dots, g^8, g^4, 1, g^4, g^8, g^{12}, \dots \}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \langle g^6, g^{10} \rangle \\ \parallel \\ \langle g^2 \rangle \\ \parallel \\ \langle g^4 \rangle \end{array}$$

$$\langle g^6, g^{10} \rangle \leq \langle g^2 \rangle$$

$$\langle g^2 \rangle \leq \langle g^6, g^{10} \rangle$$

$$\text{Since } g^2 = (g^6)^2 (g^{10})^{-1}$$

$$\text{So } \langle g^2 \rangle = \langle g^6, g^{10} \rangle$$

$G \cong \mathbb{Z}$   
multiplicative cyclic group  $\cong$  additive cyclic group

$\phi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$  is an isomorphism  
 $\phi(i) = g^i$

Theorem If  $G$  is a group of even order, then  $G$  has an element of order 2 (i.e. at least one element of order 2). Note:  $G$  is not necessarily abelian.

Proof Pair up each group element with its inverse giving pairs  $\{g, g^{-1}\}$  for  $g \in G$ . Note that  $g = g^{-1}$  iff  $g$  has order 1 or 2. ( $g = g^{-1} \iff g^2 = 1 \iff |g|$  divides 2). So  $G$  is partitioned into subsets  $\{g, g^{-1}\}$  having size 1 or 2. If  $G$  has no elements of order 2 then we have partitioned a set  $G$  of even cardinality into one subset  $\{1\}$  of size 1, and a collection of pairs  $\{g, g^{-1}\}$  of size 2, a contradiction.  $\square$

what we actually showed is that in a group of even order, the number of elements of order 2 is odd. (In a group of odd order, there are no elements of order 2 although we haven't proved this yet except in the abelian case.)

Eg. Direct Products: Given groups  $G, H$  (say, multiplicative) we form the direct product of  $G$  and  $H$  as  $G \times H = \{(g, h) : g \in G, h \in H\}$  (the cartesian product of the sets  $G$  and  $H$ ) which becomes a group under coordinatewise multiplication i.e.

$$(g, h)(g', h') = (gg', hh')$$

and coordinatewise inverses i.e.  $(g, h)^{-1} = (g^{-1}, h^{-1})$

and the coordinatewise identity  $1 \in G \times H$  is  $1 = 1_{G \times H} = (1_G, 1_H)$ . or  $e_{G \times H} = (e_G, e_H)$ .

Eg.  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1\}$  under addition mod 2

$$\begin{array}{c|c} + & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{matrix} \end{array}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}\} = \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1)\}$$

$$(x, y) + (x', y') = (x+x', y+y'). \quad \text{The identity } 0 = (0, 0).$$

This is the Klein four-group since it has 3 elements of order 2.

Note: Many books write  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  in place of  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}_2$

If  $|G|=m$  and  $|H|=n$  then  $|G \times H| = mn$ .

If  $G$  and  $H$  are abelian then so is  $G \times H$ .

In fact, the converse holds:  $G$  and  $H$  are both abelian, iff  $G \times H$  is abelian.

$$G \times H \cong H \times G$$

$$\phi: G \times H \rightarrow H \times G$$

$$\phi(g, h) = (h, g) \text{ is an isomorphism.}$$

$G \times H$  has a subgroup  $G \times \{1_H\} = \{(g, 1_H) : g \in G\} \cong G$

An isomorphism  $G \times \{1_H\} \rightarrow G$  is given by  $(g, 1_H) \mapsto g$ .

Like wise,  $G \times H$  has a subgroup  $\{1_G\} \times H \cong H$

$$(g, 1_H)(1_G, h) = (g, h) = (1_G, h)(g, 1_H)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underbrace{G \times \{1_H\}} & & \underbrace{\{1_G\} \times H} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ G & & H \end{array}$$

Eg.  $\mathbb{R}^* = (-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty) \cong \underbrace{\mathbb{R}}_{\text{additive group}} \times \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}_{\text{additive}}$   
 multiplicative group

An isomorphism  $\phi: \mathbb{R}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  is  $\phi(a) = \begin{cases} (\ln|a|, 0) & \text{if } a > 0 \\ (\ln|a|, 1) & \text{if } a < 0 \end{cases}$

It's easy to see that  $\phi$  is one-to-one and onto.

We show that  $\phi(ab) = \phi(a) + \phi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^*$ .

We argue in four cases. If  $a, b > 0$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(ab) &= (\ln|ab|, 0) \quad \text{since } ab > 0 \\ &= (\ln|a| + \ln|b|, 0) = (\ln|a|, 0) + (\ln|b|, 0) = \phi(a) + \phi(b) \end{aligned}$$

If  $a > 0 > b$  then  $ab < 0$  so

$$\phi(ab) = (\ln|ab|, 1) = (\ln|a|, 0) + (\ln|b|, 1) = \phi(a) + \phi(b)$$

Similarly if  $a < 0 < b$ .

If  $a, b < 0$  then  $ab > 0$  so

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(ab) &= (\ln|ab|, 0) = (\ln|a|, 1) + (\ln|b|, 1) \\ &= \phi(a) + \phi(b) \end{aligned}$$

Every cyclic group is abelian.  
 Not every abelian group is cyclic but every abelian group is a direct product of cyclic groups.  
 eg. the Klein four-group is a direct product of two groups of order 2 i.e.  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

There are five groups of order 8 up to isomorphism:

$\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$  (cyclic)

$$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} = \{(a,b) : a \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}, b \in \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}\}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \{(a,b,c) : a,b,c \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}\} \text{ under addition}$$

} three abelian groups of order 8

dihedral group of order 8  $\cong$  symmetry group of square,  $D_4$  (sometimes  $D_8$ )

quaternion group of order 8,  $Q$  or  $Q_8$

$$Q = \{1, -1, i, -i, j, -j, k, -k\}$$

$\uparrow$  order 2  
 $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$  order 4

$$ij=k, ji=-k, i^2=j^2=k^2=-1$$

$$jk=i, kj=-i$$

$$ki=j, ik=-j$$

For any field  $F$  (eg.  $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Q}$ )  $GL_n(F) = \{\text{invertible } n \times n \text{ matrices over } F\}$  i.e. having entries in  $F$ .

Also  $F = \mathbb{F}_3 = \{0, 1, 2\}$  works with addition mod 3.  $2+2=1=2 \times 2$   
 $\frac{1}{2} = 2$

In  $\mathbb{F}_7 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 6\}$ ,  $\frac{1}{5} = 3$ .

$\mathbb{F}_p = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  is a field whenever  $p$  is prime.

$GL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) = \{\text{invertible } 2 \times 2 \text{ matrices over } \mathbb{F}_3\}$  is a group of order 48.