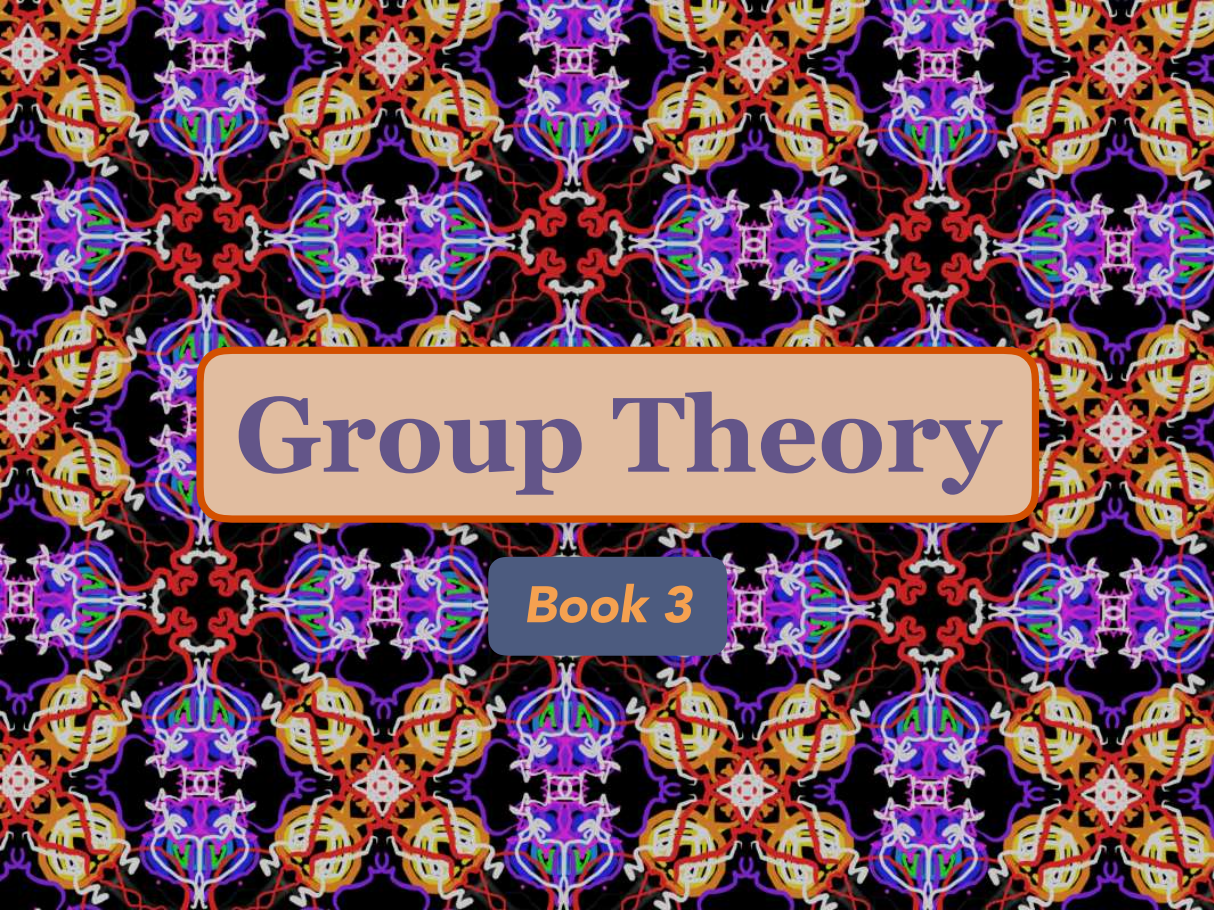
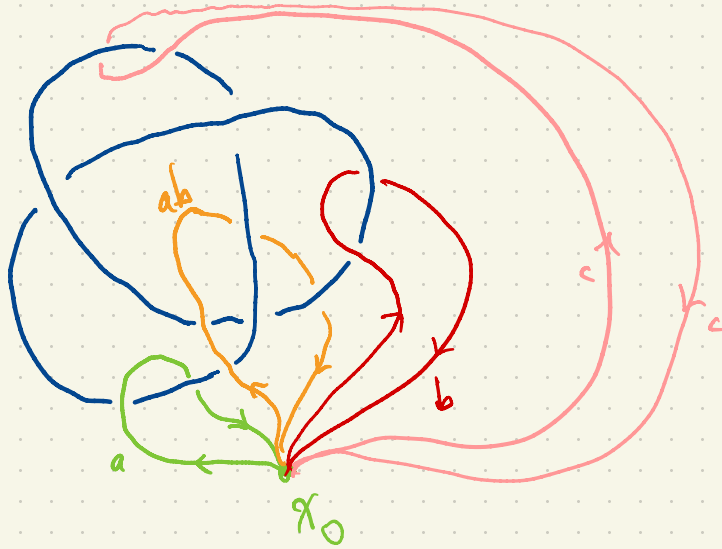




Group Theory

Book 3



$$ab = bc = ca$$

$$\Rightarrow c = b^{-1}ab = aba^{-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 - K) &= \langle a, b, c : ab = bc = ca \rangle \\ &= \langle x, y : x^3 = y^2 \rangle\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x &= ab = bc = ca \\ y &= abc\end{aligned} \quad \Bigg\} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned}x^3 &= ab \cdot ca \cdot bc \\ &= abc \cdot abc = y^2\end{aligned}$$

Observation : $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 - K)$ has no ^(nontrivial) torsion elements (a "torsion" element in a group is an element of finite order)

If X is a path-connected subset of $\mathbb{R}^2$ then $\pi_1(X)$ has no (nontrivial) torsion elements. (known for a few decades, this considered folklore). Intuitive!

The real proj. plane $\mathbb{P}^2\mathbb{R}$ has torsion (its fund. gp. $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2\mathbb{R})$ has order 2)

(top. spaces) $\nwarrow$ a subspace of $\mathbb{R}^4$, not embeddable in $\mathbb{R}^3$.
For subsets $X \subset \mathbb{R}^4$, $\pi_1(X)$ can have nontrivial torsion elements.

What about $X \subset \mathbb{R}^3$? Can $\pi_1(X)$ have nontrivial torsion elements? Famous open problem.

We will show $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ has a subgroup isomorphic to F_2 :

$$\langle \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rangle < SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

use the Ping-Pong Lemma:

One version is as follows.

Let G be a group acting on a set X . We can think of G as a subgroup of

$$\text{Sym } X = \{ \text{bijections } X \rightarrow X \}$$

i.e. permutations of X

Here I'm using left action, so we compose "right-to-left"

More generally, to say G acts on X means: For every $g \in G$ we have a permutation of X , $x \mapsto gx$ such that for all $g, h \in G$, $g(hx) = (gh)x$ i.e. the map $G \rightarrow \text{Sym } X$ is a group homomorphism.

If the map $G \rightarrow \text{Sym } X$ is one-to-one, we say G acts faithfully on X .
(So G is identified with a subgroup of $\text{Sym } X$.)

Eg. $SL_2(F)$ acts on P.F. as fractional linear transformations.

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} F \cup \{\infty\} \\ \downarrow \\ x \end{array}$$

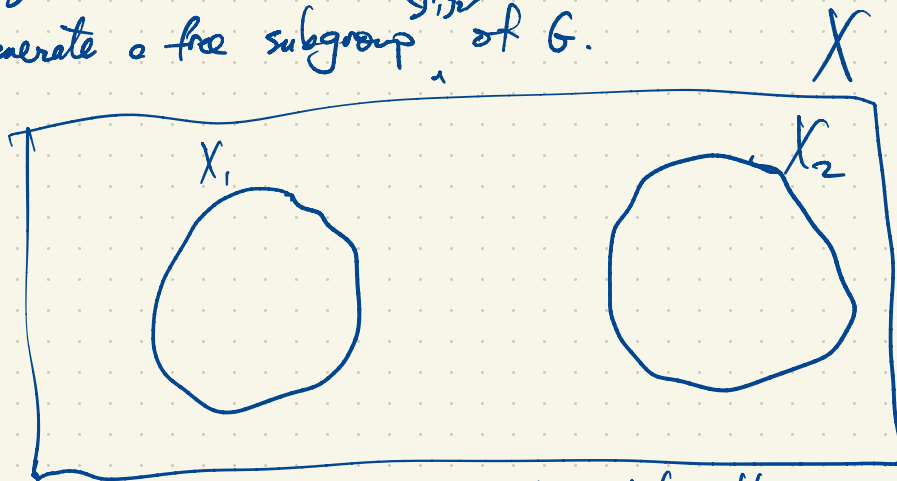
$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}(x) = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d}$$

But this action is not faithful: $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ and $-\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ give the same frac. lin. transf.
 $PSL_2(F)$ acts faithfully on P.F.

Given two subsets $X_1, X_2 \subset X$ which are disjoint and two elements $g_1, g_2 \in G$ such that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} g_1^k(X_2) &\subseteq X_1 \\ \text{and } g_2^k(X_1) &\subseteq X_2 \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ for all integers } k \neq 0$$

then g_1, g_2 generate a free subgroup $\langle g_1, g_2 \rangle$ of G .



Proof A nontrivial word in two generators looks like

$$w = g_1^{k_1} g_2^{l_1} g_1^{k_2} g_2^{l_2} \dots g_1^{k_r} g_2^{l_r} g_1^{k_r}$$

k_i, l_i nonzero integers up to conjugacy in the free group.

Then $w \neq 1$ since it maps $X \rightarrow X_1$.

Distinct words in the generators w_1, w_2 must give distinct permutations of X by considering $w = w_1 w_2$. □

Application: $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ has $F_2 = \langle a, b \rangle$ (free group of rank 2) as a subgroup.
 Try $u = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. This doesn't work. These generate $\langle u, v \rangle = SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$
 but this is not a free group since

$$uv^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (uv^{-1})^3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (uv^{-1})^6 = 1.$$

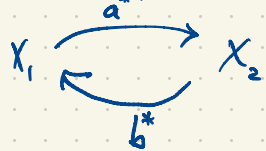
Next try $a = u^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $b = v^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. These generate $\langle a, b \rangle \cong F_2$.

To prove this, use the Ping-Pong Lemma.

$G = SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ acts on $P\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\}$ by fractional linear transformations

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} (x) = \frac{ax+b}{cx+d}$$

Let $X_1 = \{x \in P\mathbb{Q} : |x| < 1\}$, $X_2 = \{x \in P\mathbb{Q} : |x| > 1\}$. Note: $\infty \in X_2$.



$$b^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2n & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad a^n = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2n \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad n \neq 0$$

$$a^n(x) = \frac{x+2n}{0x+1} = x+2n$$

If $x \in X_1$ then $|x| < 1$ i.e. $-1 < x_1 < 1$
 then $a^n(x) \in (2n-1, 2n+1)$

so $|a^n(x)| > 1$ i.e. $a^n(x) \in X_2$.
 for $n \neq 0$.

If $x \in X_2$ then $|x| > 1$

$$b^n(x) = \frac{1x+0}{2x+1} = \frac{1}{2n+\frac{1}{x}}, \quad \left|\frac{1}{x}\right| < 1, \quad \left|2n+\frac{1}{x}\right| > 1,$$

$$|b^n(x)| = \left|\frac{1}{2n+\frac{1}{x}}\right| < 1, \quad b^n(x) \in X_1. \quad \square$$

In $G = SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$, $\langle a, b \rangle \cong F_2$.

Similarly in $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}) = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) / \{\pm I\}$, $\langle a, b \rangle \cong F_2$.

$$\langle a, b \rangle = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{bmatrix} : a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 \in \mathbb{Z}; a_1 a_4 - a_2 a_3 = 1; a_1, a_4 \text{ odd}; a_2, a_3 \text{ even} \right\}.$$

In $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ elements have one of the forms

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{odd} & \text{even} \\ \text{even} & \text{odd} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{even} & \text{odd} \\ \text{odd} & \text{even} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{odd} & \text{odd} \\ \text{even} & \text{odd} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{odd} & \text{even} \\ \text{odd} & \text{odd} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{even} & \text{odd} \\ \text{odd} & \text{odd} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \text{odd} & \text{odd} \\ \text{odd} & \text{even} \end{bmatrix}$$


$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{even} & \text{odd} \\ \text{even} & \text{odd} \end{bmatrix}, \dots$$

ten choices of parity are excluded in $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

$$|SL_2(\mathbb{F}_2)| = 2(2^2 - 1) = 6$$

$$SL_2(\mathbb{F}_2) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Reducing matrix entries mod 2 gives an epimorphism (surjective homomorphism) $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow SL_2(\mathbb{F}_2)$.

The kernel of this map is $\Gamma(2) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_3 & a_4 \end{bmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : a_1, a_4 \text{ odd}; a_2, a_3 \text{ even} \right\} = \langle a, b \rangle$
(a principal congruence subgroup) $[SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : \Gamma(2)] = 6$.

Tits Alternative: G linear group over $F \Rightarrow$ either
 G virtually solvable
or G has F_2 as a subgroup (exclusive 'or').

conjectured originally by Bass & Serre

A linear group is a matrix group over a field F , in particular $GL_n(F)$ and its subgroups such as $SL_n(F)$, $O_n(F)$, $U_n(F)$, $Sp_n(F)$, ...

Tits proved that the alternative holds in GL_n .

G is solvable if it has a composition series with abelian factors i.e.

$$G_0 = 1 \trianglelefteq G_1 \trianglelefteq G_2 \trianglelefteq \dots \trianglelefteq G_n = G \quad \text{with } G_k/G_{k-1} \text{ abelian.}$$

eg. S_3 is solvable: $1 \trianglelefteq A_3 \trianglelefteq S_3$

G is virtually solvable if it has a solvable subgroup of finite index.

Every finite group is virtually solvable by considering the trivial subgroup.

Eg. the linear group $O_2(\mathbb{R}) = \{ \text{orthogonal } 2 \times 2 \text{ real matrices} \} = \{ A \in GL_2(\mathbb{R}) : A^T A = I \}$

If $A \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$ then $AA^T = A^T A = I$, so $(\det A)^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \det A = \pm 1$.

$SO_n(\mathbb{R}) = \{ A \in O_n(\mathbb{R}) : \det A = 1 \} = \text{special orthogonal group} = \{ \text{rotations fixing } 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n \}$

$[O_n(\mathbb{R}) : SO_n(\mathbb{R})] = 2$

$SO_2(\mathbb{R}) \cong S^1$ as Lie groups (abelian)

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{bmatrix} : a^2 + b^2 = 1 \right\}$$

$O_2(\mathbb{R})$ is nonabelian but solvable.

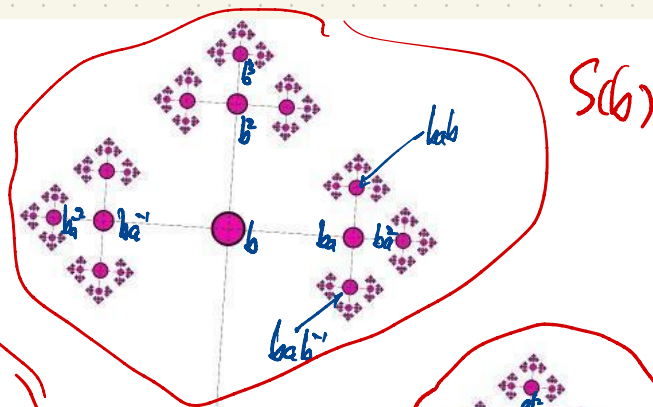
$$1 \triangleleft SO_2(\mathbb{R}) \triangleleft O_2(\mathbb{R})$$

$O_2(\mathbb{R})$ cannot have a subgroup isomorphic to F_2 .

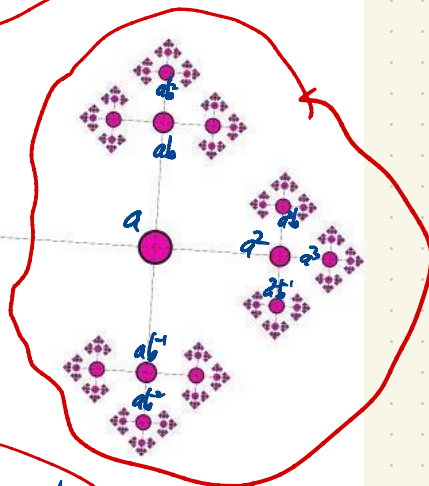
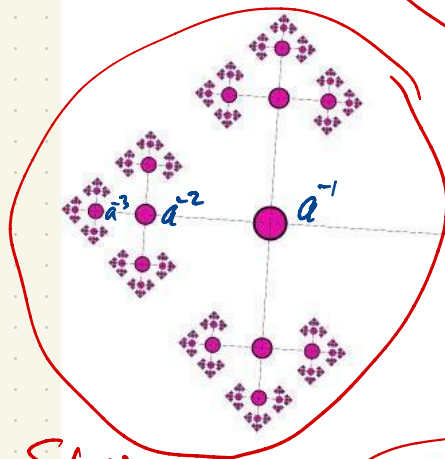
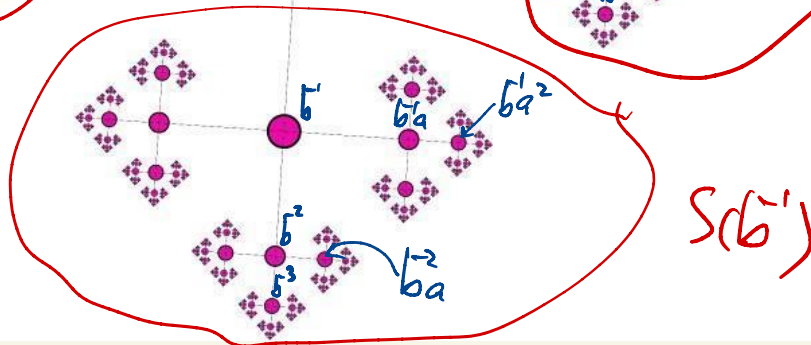
$SO_3(\mathbb{R})$ has a subgroup $\cong F_2$. See handout on free groups.

F_2 has a "paradoxical decomposition" $F_2 = A \sqcup B \sqcup C \sqcup D$ (disjoint union i.e. partition)

$$F_2 = g_1 A \sqcup g_2 B = g_3 C \sqcup g_4 D \quad g_i \in F_2.$$

F_2


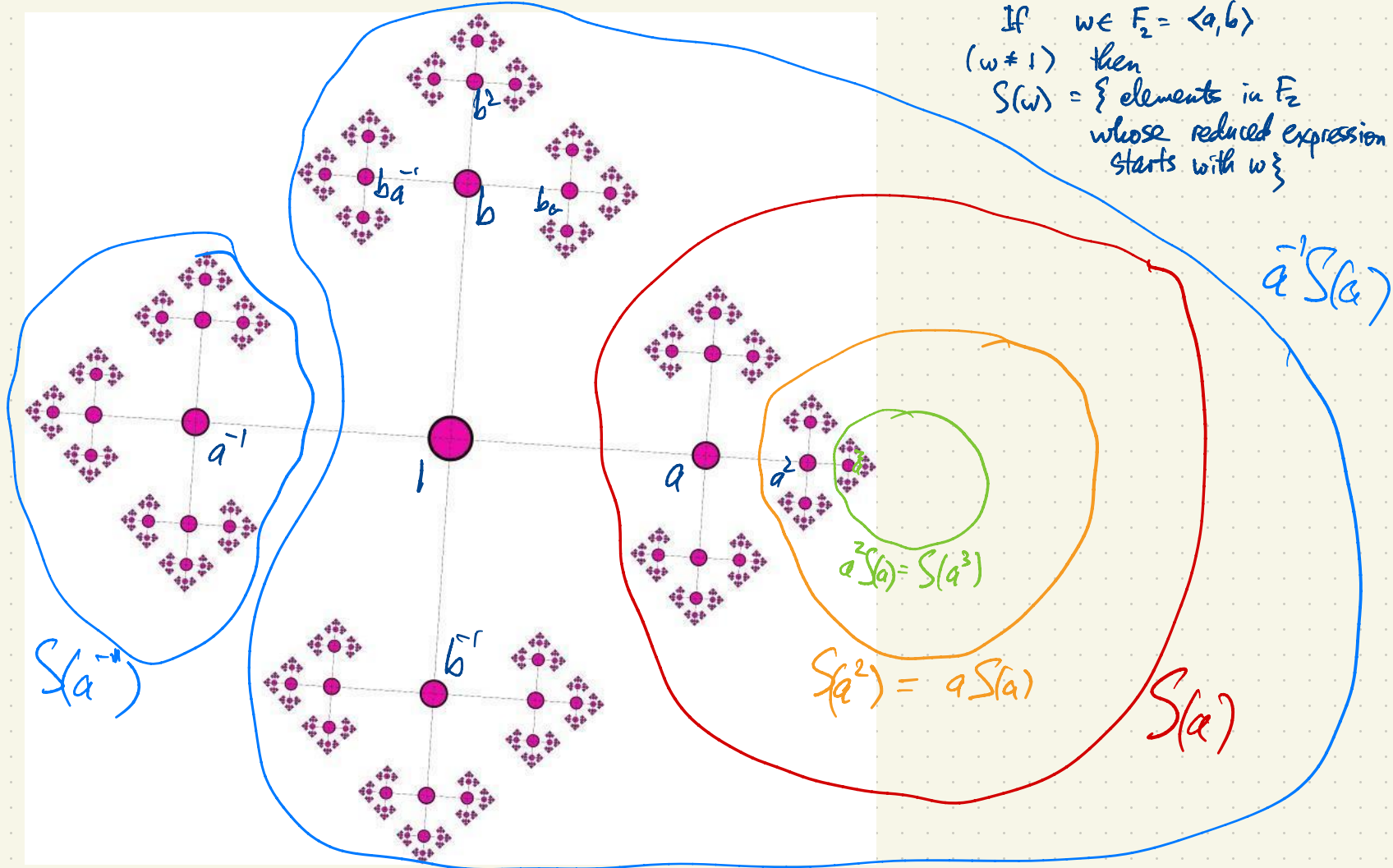
If $w \in F_2$, $w \neq 1$ then $S(w) \subset F_2$ is the subset consisting of words starting with w (they have w as a prefix). I'm only considering reduced words.


 $S(a^{-1})$
 $S(a)$

 $S(b^{-1})$

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 &= S(a^{-1}) \cup a^{-1}S(a) \\ &= S(b^{-1}) \cup b^{-1}S(b) \\ &= \{1\} \cup S(a) \cup S(b)S(a^{-1}) \cup S(b) \end{aligned}$$

This is almost a paradoxical decomposition of F_2 (unfortunately $\{1\}$ is "left over" ...)

If $w \in F_2 = \langle a, b \rangle$
 ($w \neq 1$) then
 $S(w) = \{ \text{elements in } F_2 \text{ whose reduced expression starts with } w \}$



An actual paradoxical
decomposition of F_2 without
emitting $\{1\}$:

$$F_2 = A \sqcup B \sqcup C \sqcup D$$

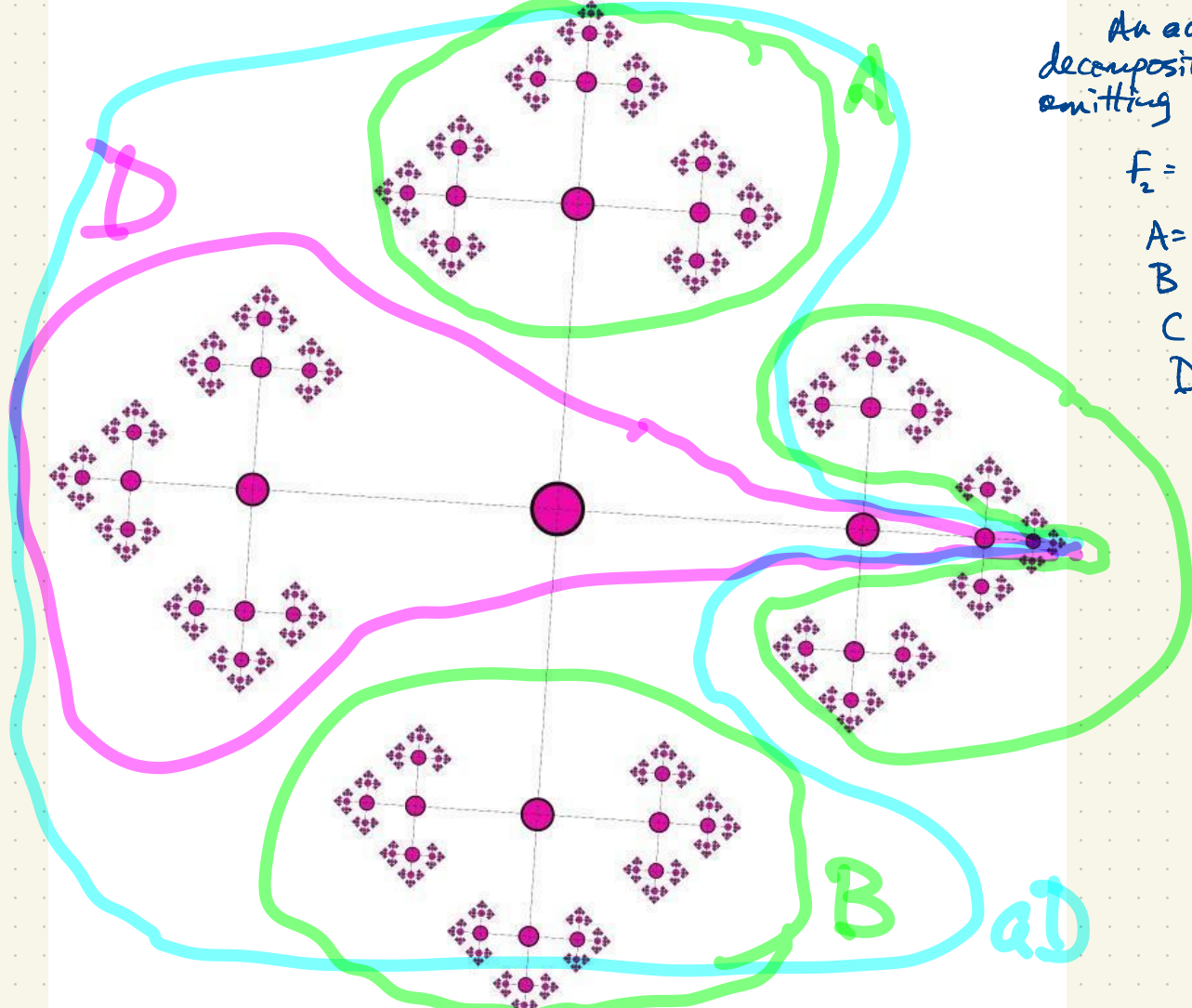
$$A = S(b)$$

$$B = S(b^{-1})$$

$$C = S(a) - \{a, a^2, a^3, a^4, \dots\}$$

$$D = S(a^{-1}) \cup \{1, a, a^2, a^3, a^4, \dots\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 &= \overline{A} \sqcup B \\ &= C \sqcup aD \end{aligned}$$



Banach-Tarski Theorem

Let $X = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 \leq 1\}$.

Then there exists a partition $X = X_1 \sqcup X_2 \sqcup X_3 \sqcup X_4 \sqcup X_5$ such that

$$X = g_1 X_1 \sqcup g_2 X_2 = g_3 X_3 \sqcup g_4 X_4 \sqcup g_5 X_5 \quad \text{for some } g_1, \dots, g_5 \text{ direct isometries of } \mathbb{R}^3.$$

(orientation-preserving isometries)

An isometry is a transformation preserving distances.

Every isometry either preserves or reverses orientation.

e.g. rotations