

## Chapters 1 and 2

Defn: • Let  $G$  be a set. A binary operation on  $G$  is a function that assigns to every ordered pair of elements of  $G$  another element of  $G$ . (More simply, a binary operation on  $G$  is a function from  $G \times G$  to  $G$ ).

• If  $\phi$  is a binary operation on  $G$  and  $S \subseteq G$ , we say  $S$  is closed with respect to  $\phi$  if  $\forall a, b \in S \ \phi(a, b) \in S$ .

Ex: • Addition, subtraction, and multiplication are binary operations on  $\mathbb{R}$ .  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$  are closed with respect to all three operations. The set of negative real numbers is closed with respect to addition, but not closed with respect to subtraction nor multiplication.

Defn: Let  $G$  be a set equipped with a binary operation (typically called multiplication) that associates to each pair  $(a, b) \in G \times G$  an element denoted  $a \cdot b$ , or more simply  $ab$ . We call  $G$  a group if the following properties hold:

① (Associativity)  $\forall a, b, c \in G \quad (ab)c = a(bc)$

② (Identity) there is  $e \in G$  (called the identity) such that  $\forall g \in G \quad ge = eg = g$

③ (Inverses) for all  $a \in G$  there is  $b \in G$  satisfying  $ab = ba = e$ .

Defn: A group  $G$  is abelian if  $\forall a, b \in G \quad ab = ba$ .  
 Otherwise,  $G$  is non-abelian

Examples

Non-examples

Abelian

- $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C},$  and  $\mathbb{R}^n$  under (normal) addition

- $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}^n$  under subtraction (not associative)

Abelian

- $\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}, \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\},$  and  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  under multiplication

- $\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}, \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\},$  and  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$  under division (not associative)

Abelian

- $\{p \in \mathbb{Q} : p > 0\}$  and  $\{r \in \mathbb{R} : r > 0\}$  under multiplication

- $\mathbb{Z}$  under multiplication (no inverses)

Abelian

- $\{-1, 1\}, \{1, -1, i, -i\},$  and the set of  $n^{\text{th}}$  roots of unity  $\{e^{2\pi i t/n} : t \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq t < n\}$  under multiplication

- $\{r \in \mathbb{R} : r \text{ is irrational}\}$  under multiplication (not closed:  $\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{2} = 2$ )

Abelian

- $2 \times 2$  matrices with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R},$  or  $\mathbb{C}$  under addition

- $2 \times 2$  matrices with coeff. in  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R},$  or  $\mathbb{C}$  under matrix multiplication (matrices with determinant 0 have no inverse)

Non-abelian

- $2 \times 2$  matrices with coeff. in  $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R},$  or  $\mathbb{C}$  that have non-zero determinant, under matrix multiplication

lem 2.A let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . Then the set

$$\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$$

is a group under addition mod  $n$

~~Def~~ Note: The "addition mod  $n$ " binary operation sends  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  to  $(a+b) \bmod n$ .

Pf: (Associative) let  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . By lem 0.B

$$[(a+b) \bmod n + c] \bmod n$$

$$= [a+b+c] \bmod n$$

$$= [a + ((b+c) \bmod n)] \bmod n$$

(Identity) For all  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_n$   $(j+0) \bmod n = j$ .

So 0 is the identity

(Inverse) let  $j \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . If  $j=0$  then the

inverse of  $j$  is 0 since  $(j+0) \bmod n = 0$ .

If  $j \neq 0$  then the inverse of  $j$  is  $n-j$

since  $n-j \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  and  $(j+(n-j)) \bmod n = n \bmod n = 0$ .

□

So  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is an abelian group under addition mod  $n$ .

lem 2.B: let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . Then the set

$$U(n) = \{0 < j < n : j \in \mathbb{Z}, \gcd(j, n) = 1\}$$

is a group under multiplication mod  $n$

Pf: Multiplication mod  $n$  is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . We first check  $U(n)$  is closed with respect to multiplication mod  $n$ .

So let  $a, b \in U(n)$ . Pick  $q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  so that  $ab = nq + r$  and  $0 \leq r < n$ . In particular  $ab \bmod n = r$ .

Towards a contradiction, suppose  $k = \gcd(r, n) > 1$ . Let  $p$  be a prime factor of  $k$ . Then  $p \mid k$  hence  $p \mid n$  and  $p \mid r$ . Therefore  $p$  divides  $nq + r = ab$ . By Euclid's Lem,  $p \mid a$  or  $p \mid b$ . But if  $p \mid a$ , then  $\gcd(a, n) \geq p > 1$ , contradicting  $a \in U(n)$ . And if  $p \mid b$  then similarly  $\gcd(b, n) \geq p > 1$ , contradicting  $b \in U(n)$ . So we must have  $\gcd(r, n) = 1$  and thus  $ab \bmod n = r \in U(n)$ . We conclude  $U(n)$  is closed under multiplication mod  $n$ .

(Associativity) Follows from Lem 0.B (see proof of Lem 2.A)

(Identity) For all  $j \in U(n)$   $j \cdot 1 \bmod n = j$ , so  $1$  is the identity.

(Inverse) This follows from homework 1 (Ch. 0 #11)

□

So  $U(n)$  is an abelian group under multiplication mod  $n$

Note:  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  is not a group under multiplication mod  $n$

since ~~unless~~  $0$  has no inverse

Fix  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 2$

Lemma 2.C: The following are equivalent.

- ①  $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  is a group under multiplication mod  $n$
- ②  $n$  is prime
- ③  $U(n) = \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$

Pf: (②  $\Rightarrow$  ③) Assume  $n$  prime. By definition  $U(n) = \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ .

On the other hand, for any  $1 \leq j \leq n-1$  we have  $\gcd(j, n) = 1$  since  $n$  prime and  $j < n$ .

Thus  $j \in U(n)$ , so  $U(n) = \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ .

(③  $\Rightarrow$  ①) This follows from Lemma 2.B

(①  $\Rightarrow$  ②) We'll prove contrapositive. So assume  $n$  not prime. Then there are  $1 < a, b < n$  with  $ab = n$ .

So  $ab \bmod n = 0$  ~~and this is not in  $U(n)$~~

~~$ab \bmod n = k \cdot n \bmod n$  (by Lemma 2.B)  $= 0$~~   
which means  $\{1, \dots, n-1\}$  is not closed under multiplication mod  $n$ , hence isn't a group.  $\square$

Note: If  $a \mid n$  then  $a$  has no multiplicative inverse mod  $n$ . Indeed, say  $ab = n$ . Then  $ab \bmod n = 0$ .

If  $k$  were a multiplicative inverse mod  $n$  for  $a$ , we would have  $kab \bmod n = [(ka \bmod n) \cdot b] \bmod n$   
 $= 1 \cdot b \bmod n = b \bmod n = b$

But we know  $kab \bmod n = [k(ab \bmod n)] \bmod n$   
 $= [k \cdot 0] \bmod n = 0 \bmod n = 0.$

Let  $p$  be prime.

Ex: The set  $GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_p, (ad-bc) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p} \right\}$   
is a group under matrix multiplication mod  $p$

Associativity can be checked by direct computation  
The identity is  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Inverses: Consider any  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$   
Let  $f$  be the multiplicative inverse mod  $p$   
of  $ad-bc$  (which exists by lem 2.C).  
By direct computation can verify the  
inverse of  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$  is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} df & -bf \\ -cf & af \end{bmatrix}$$

Note:  $GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  is non-abelian

Ex: Symmetries of the square (Chapter 1)

Consider a square  $S$  (for instance,  $S = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : 0 \leq x, y \leq 1\}$ )

A symmetry of  $S$  is a function  $f: S \rightarrow S$

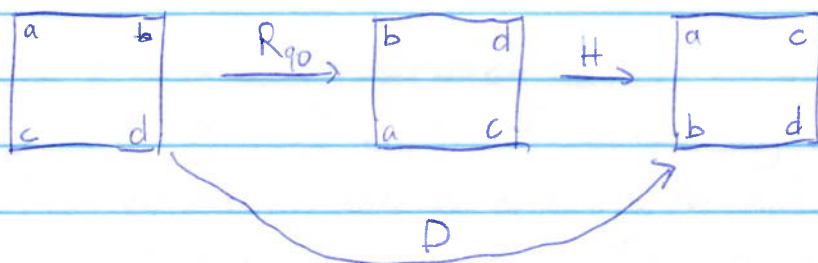
that preserves distances between pairs of points

The square has precisely 8 symmetries:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ① $R_0$ (do nothing / rotate $0^\circ$ )         | ⑤ $H$ flip over horizontal line           |
| ② $R_{90}$ (rotate $90^\circ$ counter-clockwise) | ⑥ $V$ flip over vertical line             |
| ③ $R_{180}$ (rotate $180^\circ$ )                | ⑦ $D$ flip over main diagonal             |
| ④ $R_{270}$ (rotate $270^\circ$ )                | ⑧ $D'$ flip over 2 <sup>nd</sup> diagonal |

The set of symmetries of the square is a group under the binary operation of composition of functions

Ex:  $HR_{90} = D$  because the combined effect of rotating the square  $90^\circ$  counter-clockwise and then flipping it over its horizontal midline is the same as flipping it over its main diagonal



Associativity: Composition of functions is always associative. If  $f, g, h: S \rightarrow S$  are symmetries then for all  $x \in S$

$$[(f \circ g) \circ h](x) = (f \circ g)(h(x))$$

$$= f(g(h(x))) = f((g \circ h)(x)) = [f \circ (g \circ h)](x)$$

Identity:  $R_0$  is the identity. Since  $\forall x \in S$   $R_0(x) = x$ , we have that  $R_0 \circ f = f = f \circ R_0$  for every symmetry  $f$ .

Inverses: If  $f: S \rightarrow S$  is a symmetry, then so is  $f^{-1}$  and

$$f \circ f^{-1} = R_0 = f^{-1} \circ f$$

Defn:  $D_4$  is the group of symmetries of a square.

In general for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , the group of symmetries of a regular  $n$ -gon is denoted  $D_n$  and called the dihedral group of order  $2n$ .

## — Basic Properties of Groups —

Thm 2.1: In a group  $G$ , there is only one identity element.

Pf: Suppose  $e$  and  $e'$  are identities for  $G$ , meaning  $\forall g \in G$   $ge = g$  and  $e'g = g$ . Plugging in  $g = e'$  in the first equation, and  $g = e$  in the second equation, we get  $e'e = e'$  and  $e'e = e$ . Therefore  $e' = e$   $\square$

Note: We therefore refer to "the" identity of  $G$  and will denote it by  $e$ .

Thm 2.2: In a group  $G$ , right and left cancellation laws hold. Specifically, for all  $a, b, c \in G$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad ba = ca \Rightarrow b = c$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad ab = ac \Rightarrow b = c$$

Pf:  $\textcircled{1}$  let  $a'$  be an inverse to  $a$ . ~~Then~~ And let  $e$  be the identity. Then

$$b = be = b(aa') = (ba)a' = (ca)a' = c(aa') = ce = c$$

$\textcircled{2}$  Similar, but multiply the equation  $ab = ac$  on the left by  $a'$ .  $\square$

Thm 2.3: In a group  $G$  inverses are unique, meaning for every  $a \in G$  there is a unique  $b \in G$  satisfying  $ab = ba = e$ .



Pf: Inverses must exist (by definition of being a group). Uniqueness holds because if  $ab = e$  and  $ac = e$  then  $ab = ac$  and  $b = c$  by left-cancellation.  $\square$

Defn: For a group  $G$  and  $a \in G$ , we write  $a^{-1}$  for the (unique) inverse of  $a$ . Also, we define  $a^0 = e$  and for integers  $k > 0$ :

$$a^k = \underbrace{a \cdot a \cdots a}_{k \text{ factors}}$$

$$a^{-k} = \underbrace{a^{-1} \cdot a^{-1} \cdots a^{-1}}_{k \text{ factors}}$$

Note: • Only integer exponents of  $a$  are defined.  $a^{1/2}$  is not.  
• For integers  $m, n$  we have  
 $a^m \cdot a^n = a^{m+n}$  and  $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$

Warning:  $(ab)^n \neq a^n b^n$  (unless  $G$  is abelian)

Thm 2.4: Let  $G$  be a group and  $a, b \in G$ .

$$\text{Then } (ab)^{-1} = b^{-1}a^{-1}$$

Pf:  $(ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = ab b^{-1}a^{-1} = a e a^{-1} = a a^{-1} = e$ .

Also  $(ab)(ab)^{-1} = e$ , so  $(ab)(b^{-1}a^{-1}) = (ab)(ab)^{-1}$

Now use left-cancellation.  $\square$