

# Higher Algebra

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## Part I

# Group Theory

## 1 The Mathematical Language of Symmetry

**Definition 1.1** (Isometry). A function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is an isometry if  $\|f(x) - f(y)\| = \|x - y\|$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . i.e. preserves distances.

**Definition 1.2** (Symmetry). Let  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , a symmetry of  $F$  is a (surjective) isometry  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $T(F) = F$ .

**Properties 1.3.** Let  $S, T$  be symmetries of  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then  $S \cdot T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is also a symmetry of  $F$ .

**Proof.** Given  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\|STx - STy\| &= \|Tx - Ty\| && (S \text{ is an isometry}) \\ &= \|x - y\|. && (T \text{ is an isometry})\end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $ST$  is an isometry. Clearly  $ST$  is surjective as both  $S$  and  $T$  are surjective. Also,

$$\begin{aligned}ST(F) &= S(F) && (T(F) = F) \\ &= F. && (S(F) = F)\end{aligned}$$

So  $ST$  is a symmetry of  $F$ .

**Properties 1.4.** If  $G$  = set of symmetries of  $F \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $G$  satisfies:

- i) Composition is associative,  $ST(R) = S(TR)$  for all  $S, T, R \in G$ .
- ii)  $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n} \in G$  ( $\text{id}_{\mathbb{R}^n}(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ). Also,  $\text{id}_G T = T$  and  $T \text{id}_G = T$  for all  $T \in G$ .
- iii) If  $T \in G$ , then  $T$  is bijective and  $T^{-1} \in G$ .

**Proof.** If  $Tx = Ty$ , then  $\|Tx - Ty\| = 0$ . So  $\|x - y\| = 0, x = y$ , therefore  $T$  is injective. By definition  $T$  is surjective, hence,  $T$  is bijective and therefore  $T^{-1}$  is surjective.

To prove  $T^{-1}$  is an isometry.

$$\begin{aligned}\|T^{-1}x - T^{-1}y\| &= \|TT^{-1}x - TT^{-1}y\| \\ &= \|\text{id } x - \text{id } y\| \\ &= \|x - y\|.\end{aligned}$$

To prove symmetry,  $T^{-1}F = F$ :

$$T^{-1}F = T^{-1}(T(F)) = F.$$

Thus  $T^{-1} \in G$ .

**Definition 1.5** (Group). A group is a set  $G$  equipped with a “multiplication map”  $\mu : G \times G \rightarrow G$  such that

- 1) Associativity:  $(gh)k = g(hk)$  for all  $g, h, k \in G$ .
- 2) Existence of identity: There exists  $1 \in G$  such that  $1g = g$  and  $g1 = g$  for all  $g \in G$ .
- 3) Existence of inverses:  $\forall g \in G$ , there exists  $h \in G$  such that  $gh = 1$  and  $hg = 1$ . Denoted by  $g^{-1}$ .

**Properties 1.6.** Basic facts about groups.

- “**Generalised Associativity**”. When multiplying three or more elements, the bracketing does not matter. E.g.  $(a(b(cd)))e = (ab)(c(de))$ .

**Proof.** Mathematical Induction as for matrix multiplication.

- **Cancellation Law.** If  $gh = gk$  then  $h = k$  for all  $g, h, k \in G$ .

**Proof.**  $gh = gk \implies g^{-1}(gh) = g^{-1}(gk) \implies (g^{-1}g)h = (g^{-1}g)k \implies 1h = 1k \implies h = k$ .

## 2 Matrix Groups and Subgroups

Recall  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  which represent the set of real/complex invertible  $n \times n$  matrices.

**Proposition 2.1.**  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  are groups when endowed with matrix multiplication.

**Proof.** Product of real invertible matrices is in  $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

- i) matrix multiplication is associative.
- ii) identity matrix  $I_n : I_n m = m$  and  $m I_n = m$  for all  $m \in GL_n(\mathbb{R})$
- iii) if  $m \in GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  then  $m^{-1}$ .  $mm^{-1} = I$  and  $m^{-1}m = I$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** Let  $G =$  group.

- 1) Identity is unique i.e. suppose  $1, e$  are both identities then  $1 = e$ .

**Proof.**  $1 = 1 \cdot e = e$ .

- 2) Inverses are unique.

**Proof.** If  $g \in G, gh = hg = 1$  and  $gk = kg = 1$  then  $h = k$ .

- 3) For  $g, h \in G$  we have  $(gh)^{-1} = h^{-1}g^{-1}$ .

**Proof.**  $(gh)(h^{-1}g^{-1}) = gh h^{-1} g^{-1} = g1g^{-1} = gg^{-1} = 1$ . Similarly,  $(h^{-1}g^{-1})(gh) = 1$ .

**Definition 2.3** (Subgroup). Let  $G$  be a group with multiplication  $\mu$ . A subset  $H \subseteq G$  is called a subgroup of  $G$  (denoted  $H \leq G$ ) if it satisfies:

- i)  $1_G \in H$  (contains identity),
- ii) if  $g, h \in H$  then  $gh \in H$  (closed under multiplication),
- iii) if  $g \in H$  then  $g^{-1} \in H$  (closed under inverse).

**Proposition 2.4.**  $H$  is a group with the induced multiplication map  $\mu_H : H \times H \rightarrow H$  by  $\mu_H(g, h) = \mu(g, h)$ .

**Proof.** (ii) tells us that  $\mu_H$  makes sense.  $\mu_H$  is associative because  $\mu$  is.  $H$  has an identity from (i).  $H$  has inverses from (iii).

**Proposition 2.5.** Set of orthogonal matrices  $O_n(\mathbb{R}) = \{M \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}) : M^T = M^{-1}\} \leq \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})$  forms a group. Namely the set of symmetries of an  $n - 1$  sphere, i.e. an  $n$  dimensional circle.

**Proof.** Check axioms.

- i)  $I_n \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$
- ii) If  $M, N \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$  then  $(MN)^T = N^T M^T = N^{-1} M^{-1} = (MN)^{-1}$ , so  $MN \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$ .
- iii) If  $M \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$  then  $(M^{-1})^T = (M^T)^{-1} = (M^{-1})^{-1}$  so  $M^{-1} \in O_n(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Proposition 2.6.** Basic subgroup facts.

- i) Any group  $G$  has two trivial subgroups: itself and  $1 = \{1_G\}$ .
- ii) If  $J \leq H$  and  $H \leq G$  then  $J \leq G$ .

Here are some notations. For  $g \in G$  where  $G$  is a group.

- i) If  $n$  positive integer, define  $g^n = g \cdot g \cdots g$  ( $n$  times)
- ii)  $g^0 = 1$
- iii)  $n$  positive:  $g^{-n} = (g^{-1})^n$  or  $(g^n)^{-1}$ .
- iv) For  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $g^m \cdot g^n = g^{m+n}$  and  $(g^m)^n = g^{mn}$ .

**Definition 2.7.** The order of a group  $G$ , denoted  $|G|$  is the cardinality of  $G$ . For  $g \in G$ , the order of  $g$  is the smallest positive integer  $n$  such that  $g^n = 1$ . If no such integer exists, order is  $\infty$ .

### 3 Permutation Groups

**Definition 3.1** (Permutations). Let  $S$  be a set. Let  $\text{Perm}(S)$  be the set of permutations of  $S$ . This is the set of bijections of form  $\sigma : S \rightarrow S$ .

**Proposition 3.2.**  $\text{Perm}(S)$  is a group when endowed with composition of functions.

**Proof.** Composition of bijections is a bijection. The identity is  $\text{id}_S$  and group inverse is the inverse function.

**Definition 3.3** (Symmetric Group). Let  $S = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . The symmetric group  $S_n$  is  $\text{Perm}(S)$ .

Two notations are used. With the two line notation, represent  $\sigma \in S_n$  by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \cdots & n \\ \sigma(1) & \sigma(2) & \sigma(3) & \cdots & \sigma(n) \end{pmatrix}$$

( $\sigma(i)$ 's are all distinct, hence  $\sigma$  is one to one and bijective). Note this shows  $|S_n| = n!$ .

With the cyclic notation, let  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k \in S$  be distinct. We define a new permutation  $\sigma \in \text{Perm}(S)$  by  $\sigma(s_i) = s_{i+1}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k-1$ ,  $\sigma(s_k) = \sigma(s_1)$  and  $\sigma(s) = s$  for  $s \notin \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k\}$ . Denoted  $(s_1 s_2 \dots s_k)$  and called a  $k$ -cycle.

**Example 3.4.** For  $n = 4$ ,

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \in S_4 \quad \text{means} \quad \begin{array}{ll} \sigma(1) = 2, & \sigma(2) = 3 \\ \sigma(3) = 1, & \sigma(4) = 4. \end{array}$$

In cyclic notation this is  $(123)(4)$  or  $(123)$  where the cycle is  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 1$ .

Note that a 1-cycle is the identity and the order of a  $k$ -cycle is  $k$ . So  $\sigma^k = 1$  and  $\sigma^{-1} = \sigma^{k-1}$ .

**Definition 3.5** (Disjoint Cycles). Cycles  $s_1 \dots s_k$  and  $t_1 \dots t_k$  are disjoint if  $\{s_1, \dots, s_k\} \cup \{t_1, \dots, t_k\} = \emptyset$ .

**Definition 3.6** (Commutativity). In any group, two elements  $g, h$  commute if  $gh = hg$ .

**Proposition 3.7.** Disjoint cycles commute.

**Proposition 3.8.** Any permutation  $\sigma$  of a finite set  $S$  is a product of disjoint cycles.

**Example 3.9.**  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 6 & 1 & 5 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \in S_6$  does  $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 1$ ,  $3 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 3$  and  $5 \rightarrow 5$ .

Thus  $\sigma = (124)(36)$  since  $(5)$  is the identity.

**Proposition 3.10.** Let  $\sigma$  be a permutation of a finite set  $S$ . Then  $S$  is a disjoint union of subsets, say  $S_1, \dots, S_r$ , such that  $\sigma$  permutes the elements of each  $S_i$  cyclically.

**Definition 3.11** (Transposition). A transposition is a 2-cycle i.e.  $(ab)$ .

**Proposition 3.12.** i) The  $k$ -cycle  $(s_1 s_2 \dots s_k) = (s_1 s_k)(s_1 s_{k-1}) \dots (s_1 s_3)(s_1 s_2)$

**Example 3.13.**  $(3625) = (35)(32)(36) = (36)(62)(25)$

**Proof.** The RHS produces the mapping below which is equivalent to the LHS.

$$\begin{array}{l} s_1 \rightarrow s_2 \\ s_2 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_3 \\ s_3 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_4 \\ \vdots \\ s_{k-1} \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow s_k \\ s_k \rightarrow s_1. \end{array}$$

ii) Any permutations in  $S_n$  is a product of transpositions.

**Proof.** We can write any  $\sigma \in S_n$  as product of (disjoint) cycles. By part i), each cycle is a product of transpositions. So we can write  $\sigma$  as product of transpositions.

## 4 Generators and Dihedral Groups

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $\{H_i\}_{i \in I}$  be a (non-empty) collection of subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $\bigcap_{i \in I} H_i \leq G$ .

**Proof.**

- 1) Why is  $1 \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ ? Because  $1 \in H_i$  for all  $i$ .
- 2) Closed under multiplication? If  $g, h \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ , then  $g, h \in H_i$  for all  $i \implies gh \in H_i$  for all  $i \implies gh \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$ .
- 3) Closed under taking inverse? If  $g \in \bigcap_{i \in I} H_i$  then  $g \in H_i$  for all  $i$  as  $H_i$  are subgroups, every element has an inverse. So an inverse exists for all elements in  $H_i$  for all  $i$ .

**Proposition - Definition 4.2.** Let  $G$  be a group and  $S \subseteq G$ . Let  $\mathcal{J}$  be the set of subgroups  $J \leq G$  containing  $S$ .

- i) [Definition] The subgroup generated by  $S$ ,  $\langle S \rangle$  is  $\bigcap J \in \mathcal{J} \leq J \leq G$ . i.e. it's the intersection of all subgroups of  $G$  containing  $S$ .

**Proof.** Lemma 4.1 implies  $\langle S \rangle$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

- ii) [Proposition]  $\langle S \rangle$  is the set of elements of the form  $g = s_1 s_2 \dots s_n$  where  $n \geq 0$  and  $s_i \in S \cup S^{-1}$ . Define  $g = 1$  when  $n = 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $H = \{s_1 \dots s_n : s_i \in S \cup S^{-1}\}$ . First,  $H \subseteq \langle S \rangle$ . Need to prove that  $s_i \dots s_n \in$  every  $J$ . Each  $s_i \in J$  because  $s_i = s$  or  $s^{-1}$  for some  $s \in S \leq J$  and  $J$  closed under inversion. Therefore,  $s_1 \dots s_n \in J$  by closure under multiplication. Hence  $s_1 \dots s_n \in \bigcap_{J \in \mathcal{J}} J = \langle S \rangle$ .

Second,  $\langle S \rangle \subseteq H$ . Need to prove  $H$  is a subgroup containing  $S$ . Closure under multiplication:  $(s_1 \dots s_n)(t_1 \dots t_m) = s_1 \dots s_n t_1 \dots t_m$  also closure under inversion:  $(s_1 \dots s_n)^{-1} = s_1^{-1} \dots s_n^{-1} \in H$  since  $s_i^{-1} \in S$  for all  $i$ . Identity:  $s, s^{-1} \in S \neq \emptyset \implies ss^{-1} = 1 \in H$ .

**Definition 4.3** (Finitely Generated). A group  $G$  is finitely generated *f.g.* if  $G = \langle S \rangle$  for a finite subset  $S \subseteq G$ .  $G$  is cyclic if we can take  $|S| = 1$ .

**Example 4.4.** Take  $G \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  with  $\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) & -\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right) \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Find the subgroup generated by  $\{\sigma, \tau\}$ .

Notice both  $\sigma, \tau$  are symmetries of any  $n$ -gon. Any element of  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$  has form

$$\sigma^{i_1} \tau^{j_1} \sigma^{i_2} \tau^{j_2} \dots \sigma^{i_r} \tau^{j_r} \quad \text{for } i_1, \dots, i_r, j_1, \dots, j_r \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

We have relations:  $\sigma^n = 1, \tau^2 = 1$  and  $\tau \sigma \tau^{-1} = \sigma^{-1}$ . We use these relations to push all  $\sigma$ 's to the left and all  $\tau$ 's to the right to achieve the form  $\sigma^i \tau^j$  where  $0 \leq i < n$  and  $j = 0, 1$ .

**Proposition - Definition 4.5.**  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle =$  dihedral group of  $2n$ , denoted  $D_n$  (sometimes  $D_{2n}$ ).

$$D_n = \{1, \sigma, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}, \tau, \sigma\tau, \sigma^2\tau, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\tau\} \text{ and } |D_n| = 2n.$$

**Proof.** Need to show  $2n$  elements are all distinct.  $\det(\sigma^i) = 1$  (because  $\det(\sigma) = 1$ ),  $\det(\tau) = -1$  and  $\det(\sigma^i\tau) = -1$ . We conclude,  $\{1, \sigma, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\} \cap \{\tau, \sigma\tau, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\tau\} = \emptyset$  because  $\sigma^k = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) & -\sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{2k\pi}{n}\right) \end{pmatrix}$  are distinct. If  $\sigma^i\tau = \sigma^j\tau$  then  $\sigma^i = \sigma^j$  then  $i = j$ .

## 5 Alternating and Abelian Groups

**Definition 5.1** (Symmetric Functions). Let  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a function of  $n$  variables. Let  $\sigma \in S_n$ . We define function  $(\sigma f)(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)})$ . We say that  $f$  is symmetric if  $\sigma f = f$  for all  $\sigma \in S_n$ .

**Example 5.2.** Suppose  $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_1^3 x_2^2 x_3$  and  $\sigma = (12)$  then  $\sigma f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = x_2^3 x_1^2 x_3$ . Not symmetric because  $x_1^3 x_2^2 x_3 \neq x_2^3 x_1^2 x_3$ . But  $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 x_2^2$  is symmetric in two variables.

**Definition 5.3** (Difference Product). The difference product in  $(n \text{ variables})$  is

$$\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j).$$

**Lemma 5.4.** Let  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  be a function in  $n$  variables. Let  $\sigma, \tau \in S_n$ , then  $(\sigma\tau) \cdot f = \sigma \cdot (\tau f)$ .

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma \cdot (\tau f))(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= (\tau f)(x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)}) && \text{(by definition)} \\ &= f(y_{\tau(1)}, \dots, y_{\tau(n)}) && \text{(where } y_i = x_{\sigma(i)}) \\ &= f(x_{\sigma(\tau(1))}, \dots, x_{\sigma(\tau(n))}) \\ &= f(x_{(\sigma\tau)(1)}, \dots, x_{(\sigma\tau)(n)}) \\ &= ((\sigma\tau) \cdot f)(x_1, \dots, x_n). \end{aligned}$$

Note, the second and third step follows because  $x_{\sigma(1)}$  is not necessarily  $x_1$ , so  $\tau$  is applied to  $x_1$  first, then  $\sigma$  can be applied.

**Proposition - Definition 5.5.** For  $\sigma \in S_n$  write  $\sigma = \tau_1 \tau_2 \dots \tau_m$  where  $\tau_i$  are transpositions. Then

$$\sigma \cdot \Delta = \begin{cases} \Delta & \text{if } m \text{ even (call } \sigma \text{ an even permutation)} \\ -\Delta & \text{if } m \text{ odd (call } \sigma \text{ an odd permutation)} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** Sufficient to prove for a single transposition (i.e.  $m = 1$ ) because by the above Lemma,

$$\sigma \Delta = \tau_1(\tau_2 \dots (\tau_{m-1}(\tau_m \Delta)) \dots) = \tau_1((-1)^{m-1} \Delta) = (-1)^m \Delta.$$

Let's assume  $\sigma = (ij), i < j$ . There are 3 cases:

- i)  $x_i - x_j \implies x_j - x_i$  (factor of  $-1$ ).
- ii)  $x_r - x_s$  where  $i, j, r, s$  all distinct  $\implies x_r - x_s$  (factor of  $+1$ ).



iii)  $x_r - x_s$  where one of  $r, s$  is equal to  $i$  or  $j$ . There are several subcases:

(a)  $r < i < j$ :  $x_r - x_i \implies x_r - x_j$  but also  $x_r - x_j \implies x_r - x_i$ , no change (factor of +1).

(b)  $i < r < j$ :  $(x_i - x_r)(x_r - x_j) \implies (x_j - x_r)(x_r - x_i)$  (factor of +1).

(c)  $i < j < r$ : similar to (a) (factor of +1).

So only change in i). Multiplying the three cases together yields  $\sigma \cdot \Delta = -\Delta$ .

**Corollary - Definition 5.6** (Alternating Group). The alternating group (on  $n$  symbols) is

$$A_n = \{\sigma \in S_n : \sigma \text{ is even}\}.$$

This is a subgroup of  $S_n$ . Also  $A_n$  is generated by  $\{\tau_1\tau_2 : \tau_1, \tau_2 \text{ are transposition}\}$ .

**Example 5.7.**  $A_3 = \{1, (123), (132)\}$ ,  $S_3 \setminus A_3 = \{(12), (13), (23)\}$ .  $|A_n| = n!/2$  except for  $n = 1$ ,  $A_1 = S_1 = \{1\}$ .

**Definition 5.8** (Abelian Group). A group  $G$  is abelian if any two elements commute.

In abelian groups, often switch to additive notation:

i) product  $gh \implies g + h$

ii) identity  $1 \implies 0$

iii) power  $g^n \implies ng$

iv) inverse  $g^{-1} \implies -g$

This notation follows from  $\mathbb{Z}$  endowed with addition which forms an abelian group.

## 6 Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem

Let  $H \leq G$  be a subgroup. This will apply to all statements in this section unless mentioned otherwise.

**Definition 6.1** (Coset). A left coset of  $H$  in  $G$  is a set of the form  $gH = \{gh : h \in H\} \subseteq G$  for some  $g \in G$ . The set of left cosets is denoted by  $G/H$ .

**Example 6.2.** Let  $H = A_n \leq S_n = G$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Let  $\tau$  be any transposition. We claim that  $\tau A_n = \{\text{odd permutations}\}$ .

$\subseteq$  :  $\tau A_n = \{\tau\sigma : \sigma \text{ even}\}$ , they are all odd.

$\supseteq$  : Suppose  $\sigma$  is odd, then  $\sigma = \tau \cdot (\tau^{-1}\sigma) \in \tau A_n$ .

**Theorem 6.3.** Define a relation on  $G$  :  $g \equiv g'$  if and only if  $g \in g'H$ . Then  $\equiv$  is an equivalence relation, the equivalence classes are the left cosets. Therefore  $G = \bigcup_{i \in I} g_i H$  (disjoint union).

**Proof.**

i) Reflexive. i.e.  $g \in gH$  for all  $g \in G$ . True because  $1 \in H$ .

- ii) Symmetry. Suppose  $g \in g'H$ , need to prove  $g' \in gH$ . Since  $g \in g'H$  we have  $g = g'h$  for some  $h \in H$ .  $g' = gh^{-1}$  so  $g' \in gH$  (as  $h^{-1} \in H$ ).
- iii) Transitivity. Suppose  $g \in g'H$  and  $g' \in g''H$ . Then  $g = g'h$  and  $g' = g''h'$  for  $h, h' \in H$ . Therefore  $g = (g''h')h = g''(h'h) \in g''H$  from associativity and  $h'h \in H$ .

Thus  $\equiv$  is an equivalence relation and  $G$  is a disjoint union of equivalence classes.

Note  $1H = H$  is always a coset of  $G$  and the coset containing  $g \in G$  is  $gH$ .

**Example 6.4.**  $H = A_n \leq S_n = G$  cosets are exactly  $S_n$  and  $\tau S_n$  where  $S_n = A_n \dot{\cup} \tau A_n$ .

**Definition 6.5** (Index). The index of  $H$  in  $G$  is the number of left cosets, i.e.  $|G/H|$ . Denoted by  $[G : H]$ .

**Lemma 6.6.** Let  $g \in G$ . Then  $H$  and  $gH$  have the same cardinality.

**Proof.** Bijection,  $H \rightarrow gH, h \mapsto gh$ . Surjective and injective (multiply on left by  $g^{-1}$ ).

**Theorem 6.7** (Lagrange's Theorem). Assume  $G$  finite. Then  $|G| = |H|[G : H]$  i.e.  $|G/H| = |G|/|H|$ .

**Proof.** Using Lemma 6.6, we have:

$$G = \bigcup_{i=1}^{[G:H]} g_i H \quad (\text{disjoint union}) \implies |G| = \sum_{i=1}^{[G:H]} |g_i H| = \sum_{i=1}^{[G:H]} |H| = [G : H]|H|.$$

**Example 6.8.**  $A_n \leq S_n$ .  $[S_n : A_n] = 2 \implies |S_n| = 2|A_n| \implies n! = 2 * n!/2$ .

All above statements hold for right cosets which have form  $Hg = \{hg : h \in H\}$  denoted  $H \backslash G$ . The number of left cosets are equal the number of right cosets.

## 7 Normal Subgroups and Quotient Groups

Let  $G =$  group and  $J, K \subseteq G$ . Define the subset product  $JK = \{jk : j \in J, k \in K\}$ .

**Proposition 7.1.** Let  $G =$  group.

- i) If  $J' \subseteq J \subseteq G$  and  $K \subseteq G$  then  $KJ' \subseteq KJ$ .
- ii) If  $H \leq G$ , then  $HH = H (= H^2)$ .
- iii) For  $J, K, L \subseteq G$  then  $(JK)L = J(KL) = \{jkl : j \in J, k \in K, \ell \in L\}$

**Proposition - Definition 7.2** (Normal Subgroup). Let  $N \leq G$ . We say  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  and write  $N \trianglelefteq G$  if any of the following equivalent conditions hold:

- i)  $gN = Ng$  for all  $g \in G$ .
- ii)  $g^{-1}Ng = N$  for all  $g \in G$ .
- iii)  $g^{-1}Ng \subseteq N$  for all  $g \in G$

**Proof.** (i)  $\iff$  (ii), multiply both sides on the left by  $g^{-1}$ . (ii)  $\implies$  (iii) by definition. (iii)  $\implies$  (ii), assume  $g^{-1}Ng \subseteq N$  for all  $g \in G$ , apply this with  $g^{-1} : (g^{-1})Ng^{-1} \subseteq N \implies N \subseteq g^{-1}Ng$ . Therefore  $g^{-1}Ng = N$ .

**Theorem - Definition 7.3** (Quotient Group). Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then subset product is a well-defined multiplication map on  $G/N$  which makes  $G/N$  into a group, called the quotient group. Also:

- i)  $(gN)(g'N) = (gg')N$
- ii)  $1_{G/N} = N$
- iii)  $(gN)^{-1} = g^{-1}N$ .

**Proof.** Why is this well-defined? Why is the product of 2 cosets another coset?

Take cosets  $gN = \{g\}N$  and  $g'N$ . Calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
 (gN)(g'N) &= g(Ng')N && \text{(associative)} \\
 &= g(g'N)N && (N \trianglelefteq G) \\
 &= (gg')(NN) && \text{(associative)} \\
 &= gg'N && (N^2 = N)
 \end{aligned}$$

This is a coset. Also proves (i). For (ii),  $(gN)N = g(NN) = gN \implies N(gN) = (Ng)N = (gN)N = gN$ ,  $N$  is an identity. For (iii),  $(g^{-1}N)(gN) = g^{-1}(Ng)N = g^{-1}(gN)N = (g^{-1}g)(NN) = 1 \cdot N = N$ .

## 8 Group Homomorphisms

**Definition 8.1** (Homomorphism). Given groups  $G, H$ . A function  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  is a homomorphism of groups if  $\phi(hh') = \phi(h)\phi(h')$  for all  $h, h' \in H$ .

**Proposition - Definition 8.2** (Isomorphisms and Automorphisms). Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism. The following are equivalent:

- There exists a group homomorphism,  $\psi : G \rightarrow H$  such that  $\psi\phi = \text{id}_H$  and  $\phi\psi = \text{id}_G$
- $\phi$  is bijective.

We call  $\phi$  is a group isomorphism. If  $H = G$ ,  $\phi$  is an automorphism.

**Proposition 8.3.** If  $\phi : H \rightarrow G, \psi : K \rightarrow H$  are group homomorphism then  $\phi \cdot \psi : K \rightarrow G$  is a homomorphism.

**Proof.**  $(\phi \cdot \psi)(kk') = \phi(\psi(kk')) = \phi(\psi(k)\psi(k')) = \phi(\psi(k))\phi(\psi(k'))$

**Proposition 8.4.** Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism.

- i)  $\phi(1_H) = 1_G$ .
- ii)  $\phi(h^{-1}) = \phi(h)^{-1}$  for all  $h \in H$ .
- iii) if  $H' \leq H$  then  $\phi(H') \leq G$ .

**Proposition - Definition 8.5.** Let  $G$  be a group with  $g \in G$ . Conjugation by  $g$  is the map  $C_g : G \rightarrow G; h \mapsto ghg^{-1}$ . Then  $C_g$  is an automorphism with inverse  $C_{g^{-1}}$ .

**Proof.**  $C_g$  is a homomorphism:  $C_g(h_1h_2) = C_g(h_1)C_g(h_2)$ . Check:  $C_g(h_1h_2) = gh_1h_2g^{-1} = gh_1g^{-1}gh_2g^{-1} = C_g(h_1)C_g(h_2)$ . Now check  $C_{g^{-1}}$  is an inverse.  $C_{g^{-1}}(C_g(h)) = C_{g^{-1}}(ghg^{-1}) = g^{-1}ghg^{-1}g = h$ . Similarly  $C_g(C_{g^{-1}}(h)) = h$ , therefore  $(C_g)^{-1} = C_{g^{-1}}$ .

**Corollary - Definition 8.6.** For  $H \leq G$ , a conjugate of  $H$  (in  $G$ ) is a subgroup of  $G$  of the form  $gHg^{-1} := c_g(H)$ .

**Definition 8.7** (Epimorphism and Monomorphism). Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism.  $\phi$  is an epimorphism if  $\phi$  is surjective.  $\phi$  is a monomorphism if  $\phi$  is injective.

**Example 8.8.** Linear map  $T : V \rightarrow W$  where  $V$  and  $W$  are vector spaces. Suppose  $T$  is a projection onto some subspace. What does  $T^{-1}(w) = \{v \in V : T(v) = w\}$  looks like, for a given  $w \in W$ ?

If  $w \in L$ ,  $T^{-1}(w) = \emptyset$

If  $w \in L$ ,  $T^{-1}(w) =$  plane containing  $w$ , orthogonal to  $L = w + K$  where  $K = \text{kernel of } T = T^{-1}(0)$ .

**Definition 8.9.** Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism. The kernel of  $\phi$  is

$$\ker \phi = \phi^{-1}(1_G) = \{h \in H : \phi(h) = 1_G\}$$

**Proposition 8.10.** Let  $\phi : H \rightarrow G$  be a group homomorphism.

i) If  $G' \leq G$  then  $\phi^{-1}(G') \leq H$ .

ii) If  $G' \trianglelefteq G$  then  $\phi^{-1}(G') \trianglelefteq H$ .

**Proof.** (Normality) Given  $h \in \phi^{-1}(G')$  and  $g \in H$ . We need to prove  $ghg^{-1} \in \phi^{-1}(G') \implies \phi(ghg^{-1}) \in G' \implies \phi(g)\phi(h)\phi(g)^{-1} \in G'$  true because  $\phi(h) \in G'$  and  $G' \trianglelefteq G$ .

iii)  $K = \ker \phi \trianglelefteq H$ .

**Proof.** Follows from (ii) because  $K = \phi^{-1}(\{1\})$  and  $\{1\} \trianglelefteq G$ .

iv) The non-empty fibres of  $\phi$ , i.e.  $\phi^{-1}(g)$  for all  $g \in G$ , are exactly the cosets of  $H$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $g \in G$ , consider  $\phi^{-1}(g)$ . Assume  $\phi^{-1}(g) \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $h \in \phi^{-1}(g)$ .

**Claim.**  $\phi^{-1}(g) = hK$ .

**Proof.**  $hK \subseteq \phi^{-1}(g)$  because  $\phi(hK) = \phi(h)\phi(j) = g \cdot 1 = g$ .

**Converse:**  $\phi^{-1}(g) \subseteq hK$ . Let  $h' \in \phi^{-1}(g)$ . Then  $\phi(h') = g$ , also  $\phi(h) = g$ . Therefore  $\phi(h'h^{-1}) = \phi(gg^{-1}) = \phi(1) = 1$ . So  $h'h^{-1} \in K$ ,  $h' \in Kh = hK$ , thus  $\phi^{-1}(g) = hK$ .

v)  $\phi$  is one to one if and only if  $K = \{1\}$ .

**Proof.** ( $\implies$ ) trivial. ( $\impliedby$ ) Assume  $K = \{1\}$ . By part (iv) fibres  $\phi^{-1}(g)$  are cosets of  $\{1\}$  hence contain single element.

**Proposition - Definition 8.11.** Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$ . The quotient monomorphism (of  $G$  by  $N$ ) is the map  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N; g \mapsto gN$ . Its an epimorphism with kernel  $N$ .

## 9 First Group Isomorphism Theorem

**Theorem 9.1.** Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N$  be quotient map. Suppose  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is a homomorphism such that  $N \leq \ker \phi$ .

- i) If  $g, g' \in G$  lie in the same coset of  $N$ , i.e.  $gN = g'N$ , then  $\phi(g) = \phi(g')$ .
- ii) The map  $\psi : G/N \rightarrow H; gN \mapsto \phi(g)$  is a homomorphism (the induced homomorphism).
- iii)  $\psi$  is the unique homomorphism  $G/N \rightarrow H$  such that  $\phi = \psi \circ \pi$ .
- iv)  $\ker \psi = (\ker \phi)/N = \{gN : g \in \ker \phi\}$ .

**Lemma 9.2** (Universal Property of Quotient Morphism). If  $N \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$  then  $N = m\mathbb{Z}$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Proof.** If  $N = 0 (= \{0\})$  then can take  $m = 0$ . Suppose  $N \neq 0$ . Must contain at least one nonzero element. Take  $m =$  smallest positive element in  $N$ .  $m\mathbb{Z} \subseteq N$  easy.  $N \subseteq m\mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $n \in N$ , we write  $n = mq + r$  where  $0 \leq r < m$ . We know  $n \in N, mq \in N$ . Therefore  $r = n - mq \in N$  but  $r < m \implies r = 0$ . Thus,  $n = mq \in m\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 9.3.** Let  $H = \langle h \rangle$  be a cyclic group. Then there exists an isomorphism:  $\phi : \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$  where  $m$  is the order of  $h$  if this is finite and 0 if  $h$  has infinite order.

**Proof.** Define  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H; i \mapsto h^i$ .  $\phi$  is an epimorphism (because  $h^{i+j} = h^i \cdot h^j$  and  $H = \langle h \rangle$  gives surjective.) Let  $N = \ker \phi$ . By lemma,  $N = m\mathbb{Z}$  for some  $m \geq 0$ . Apply Universal Property Theorem, gives  $\psi : \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow H$ .  $\psi$  surjective because  $\phi$  is surjective. Injective if  $i + m\mathbb{Z} \in \ker \psi$ , then  $\phi(i) = 1 \in H$  so  $i \in \ker \phi = N = m\mathbb{Z}$ . So  $H \cong \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Check  $m$  gives correct order.

**Theorem 9.4** (First isomorphism Theorem). Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism. The isomorphism  $\pi$  given by  $G \rightarrow H$  induces  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow H$  (by Universal Property) induces  $G/\ker \phi \rightarrow \text{Im } \phi$ .

## 10 Second and Third Isomorphism Theorems

**Proposition 10.1** (Subgroups of Quotient Groups). Let  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the quotient map.

- i) If  $N \leq H \leq G$  then  $N \trianglelefteq H$ .
- ii) There is a bijection between subgroups  $H \leq G$  that contain  $N$  and subgroups  $\bar{H} \leq G/N$ .  $H \mapsto \pi(H) = \{nH : h \in H\} = H/N$  and  $\bar{H} \mapsto \pi^{-1}(\bar{H})$ .

**Proof.** Images and image images of subgroups are subgroups. If  $\bar{H} \leq G/N$ , then  $\pi^{-1}(\bar{H})$  contains  $N$  (because  $1_{G/N} \in \bar{H}$ ). Surjective:  $\pi(\pi^{-1}(\bar{H})) = \bar{H}$  because  $\pi$  surjective. Injective: If  $\pi(H_1) = \pi(H_2)$  then  $H_1 = H_2$ . This follows from  $H_1 = \cup_{g \in H_1} gN$  (disjoint union of cosets).

- iii) Normal subgroups correspond i.e.  $H \trianglelefteq G$  iff  $\bar{H} \trianglelefteq G/N$ .

**Theorem 10.2** (Second Isomorphism Theorem). Suppose  $N \trianglelefteq G$  and  $N \leq H \leq G$ . Then  $\frac{G/N}{H/N} \cong G/H$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\pi_N, \pi_{H/N}$  are both onto,  $\phi = \pi_{H/N} \circ \pi_N$  is also onto.  $\ker(\phi) = \{g \in G : \pi_N(g) \in \ker(\pi_{H/N} : G/N \rightarrow \frac{G/N}{H/N})\} = \{g \in G : \pi_N(g) \in H/N\} = \pi^{-1}(H/N) = H$  by Proposition 10.1. First

Isomorphism Theorem says  $G/\ker(\phi) \cong \text{Im}(\phi) \implies G/N \cong \frac{G/N}{H/N}$  which proves the theorem.

**Theorem 10.3.** Suppose  $H \leq G, N \trianglelefteq G$ . Then

i)  $H \cap N \trianglelefteq H, HN \leq G$ .

ii)  $\frac{H}{H \cap N} \cong \frac{HN}{N}$ .

## 11 Products of Groups

Recall given groups  $G_1, \dots, G_n$ , the set  $G_1 \times G_2 \times \dots \times G_n = \{(g_1, \dots, g_n) : g_1 \in G_1, \dots, g_n \in G_n\}$ . More generally if  $G_i, i \in I$  are groups then  $\prod_{i \in I} G_i = \{(g_i)_{i \in I} : g_i \in G_i\}$ .

**Proposition - Definition 11.1** (Product). The set  $\prod_{i \in I} G_i$  is called the (direct) product of the  $G_i$ 's, it is a group when endowed with co-ordinatewise multiplication.  $(g_i)(g'_i) = (g_i g'_i)$

i)  $1_G = (1_{G_i}) = (1_{G_1}, 1_{G_2}, 1_{G_3}, \dots)$

ii)  $(g_i)^{-1} = (g_i^{-1})$

**Example 11.2.** Consider  $\mathbb{Z}^2 = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ .  $(a, b) + (a', b') = (a + a', b + b')$ , group law in each coordinate.  $\mathbb{Z}^2 = \langle (1, 0), (0, 1) \rangle$  is finitely generated.

**Proposition 11.3** (Canonical Injections and Projections). Let  $G_i, i \in I$  be groups and  $r \in I$ .

i) The canonical injection  $\iota_r : G_n \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} G_i; g \mapsto (g_i)_{i \in I}$  where  $g_i = 1$  if  $i \neq r$  or  $g_i = g$  if  $i = r$ .

ii) The canonical project  $\pi_r : \prod_{i \in I} G_i \rightarrow G_r; (g_i)_{i \in I} \mapsto g_r$ .

iii)  $\frac{G_1 \times G_2}{G_1 \times \{1\}} \cong G_2$  (Note:  $G_n \times \{1\} \trianglelefteq G_1 \times G_2$ ).

**Proof.**  $\pi_2 : G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G_2$ . Apply First Isomorphism Theorem

**Proposition 11.4** (Internal Characterisation of Product). Let  $G_1, \dots, G_n \leq G$ . Assume  $G = \langle G_1, \dots, G_n \rangle$ . Assume:

i) If  $i \neq j$  then elements of  $G_i$  and  $G_j$  commute

ii) For any  $i, G_i \cap \langle U_{\ell \neq i} G_\ell \rangle = 1$ .

Then there is an isomorphism  $\phi : G_1 \times \dots \times G_n \rightarrow G; (g_1, \dots, g_n) \mapsto g_1 g_2 \dots g_n$ .

**Proof.** Check homomorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi((g_1, \dots, g_n)(h_1, \dots, h_n)) &= \phi((g_1 h_1, \dots, g_n h_n)) \\ &= g_1 h_1 g_2 h_2 \dots g_n h_n \\ &= g_1 \dots g_n h_1 \dots h_n && \text{(using (i))} \\ &= \phi(g_1 \dots g_n) \phi(h_1 \dots h_n) \end{aligned}$$

Surjective? Yes because  $G$  is generated by  $G_1, \dots, G_n$ . Injective? Suppose  $\phi((g_1, \dots, g_n)) = 1$ , then

$g_1 \cdots g_n = 1 \implies g_1^{-1} \in G_1 = \langle g_2 \cdots g_n \rangle$  by (ii) must be id. So  $g_1 = 1$  and  $g_2 \cdots g_n = 1$ . Repeat the same argument to get all  $g_i = 1$ .

**Corollary 11.5.** Let  $G$  be finite group of exponent 2. i.e. LCM of all orders of group element is 2. Then  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proof.**  $G$  is finitely generated. Choose minimal generating set  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ , each  $\langle g_i \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ . Want to prove that  $G \cong \langle g_1 \rangle \times \cdots \langle g_n \rangle$ . Condition (i): Need  $g_i g_j = g_j g_i$  for  $i \neq j$ .  $\text{ord}(g_i g_j) = 2$ , so  $g_i g_j g_i g_j = 1 \implies g_i g_j = g_j^{-1} g_i^{-1} = g_j g_i$ . Condition (ii): e.g.  $\langle g_1 \rangle \cap \langle g_2, \dots, g_n \rangle = \{1\}$ . If false, then  $g_1 \in \langle g_2, \dots, g_n \rangle$  but then our generating set is not minimal. By proposition  $G \cong \langle g_1 \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle g_n \rangle$ .

**Theorem 11.6.** Let  $G$  be a finitely generated abelian group. Then  $G \cong$  product of cyclic groups. In fact  $G \cong \mathbb{Z}/h_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/g_2\mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}/h_n\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}^s$  where  $h_1 \mid h_2 \mid h_3 \mid \cdots \mid h_n$  for some  $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## 12 Symmetries of Regular Polygons

$AO_n$ , the set of surjective symmetries  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  forms a subgroup of  $\text{Perm}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Proposition 12.1.** Let  $T \in AO_n$ , then  $T = T_{\mathbf{v}} \circ T'$ , where  $\mathbf{v} = T(\mathbf{0})$  and  $T'$  is an isometry with  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Proof.** Set  $T' = T_{\mathbf{v}}^{-1} \circ T = T_{-\mathbf{v}} \circ T$  where  $\mathbf{v} = T(\mathbf{0})$ .  $T'$  is an isometry because  $T$  and  $T_{\mathbf{v}}$  are isometries. Also  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = T_{-\mathbf{v}}(T(\mathbf{0})) = T_{-\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ .

**Theorem 12.2.** Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be an isometry such that  $T(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ . Then  $T$  is linear.

The centre of mass  $V = \{\mathbf{v}^1, \dots, \mathbf{v}^m\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is  $\mathbf{c}_V = \frac{1}{m}(\mathbf{v}^1 + \cdots + \mathbf{v}^m)$ .

**Corollary 12.3.** Let  $V = \{\mathbf{v}^1, \dots, \mathbf{v}^m\}$  and let  $T : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be an isometry such that  $T(V) = V$ . Then  $T(\mathbf{c}_V) = \mathbf{c}_V$ .

**Proof.** Decompose  $T = T_{\mathbf{w}} \circ T'$  for some  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and isometry  $T'$  with  $T'(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$ . So  $T'$  is linear. Then

$$\begin{aligned} T(\mathbf{c}_V) &= \mathbf{w} + T'(\mathbf{c}_V) = \mathbf{w} + T' \left( \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^i \right) \\ &= \mathbf{w} + \frac{1}{m} \sum_i T'(\mathbf{v}^i) && \text{(using linearity)} \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_i (T'(\mathbf{v}^i) + \mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i T(\mathbf{v}^i) \\ &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \mathbf{v}^i && \text{(since } T(\mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{v}) \\ &= \mathbf{c}_V \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 12.4.** Let  $G \leq AO_n$  be finite. Then there exists  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $T\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}$  for any  $T \in G$ . If we translate to change coordinates so  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{0}$ , then  $G < O_n$ .

**Proof.** Pick any  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $V = \{S\mathbf{w} : S \in G\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .  $V$  is finite because  $G$  is finite. Also  $T(V) = \{TS\mathbf{w} : S \in G\} = \{S\mathbf{w} : S \in G\} = V$ . Take  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}_V$  then by the previous corollary  $T(\mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{c}$  for all  $T \in G$ .

**Proposition 12.5** (Symmetries of Regular Polygons). The group of symmetries of a regular  $n$ -gon is in fact  $D_n$ .

## 13 Abstract Symmetry and Group Actions

**Definition 13.1** ( $G$ -set, Group Action). A  $G$ -set is a set  $S$  equipped with a map  $\alpha : G \times S \rightarrow S; (g, s) \mapsto \alpha(g, s) = g.s$  is called a group action and satisfies the following axioms:

- i)  $g.(h.s) = (g.h).s$  for all  $g, h \in G, s \in S$ .
- ii)  $1_G.s = s$  for all  $s \in S$ .

**Definition 13.2** (Permutation Representation). A permutation representation of a group  $G$  on a set  $S$  is a homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$ . This gives a  $G$ -set structure on  $S$ . Action is  $g.s = (\phi(g))(s)$ .

**Proposition 13.3.** Every  $G$ -set  $S$  arises from some permutation representation. Given  $G$ -set  $S$ , need to define homomorphism  $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$ , take  $\phi(g)(s) = g.s$ .

**Definition 13.4.** Let  $S_1, S_2$  be  $G$ -sets. A morphism of  $G$ -sets is a function  $\psi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$  such that  $g.\psi(s) = \psi(g.s)$  for all  $g \in G, s \in S_1$ . Say that  $\psi$  is  $G$ -equivalent or that  $\psi$  is compatible with the  $G$ -action.

## 14 Orbits and Stabilisers

Let  $G = \text{group}$ ,  $S = G\text{-set}$ . Define relation  $\sim$  on  $S$  by  $s \sim t \iff$  there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $t = g.s$ .

**Proposition 14.1.** This  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation.

**Proof.** Reflexive:  $1 \in G$ . Symmetric: if  $t = g.s$  then  $s = g^{-1}.t$ . Transitive: if  $t = g.s$  and  $u = g'.t$  then  $u = g'.(g.s) = (g'g).s$ .

**Corollary - Definition 14.2** (Orbits). The equivalence classes of  $\sim$  are called  $G$ -orbits. Also,  $S$  is a disjoint union of orbits. The  $G$ -orbit containing  $s \in S$  is denoted  $G.s = \{g.s : g \in G\}$ .  $S/G$  denotes the set of  $G$ -orbits of  $S$ .

**Proposition - Definition 14.3** ( $G$ -stable). Let  $S$  be a  $G$ -set. A subset  $T \subseteq S$  is called  $G$ -stable if  $g.t \in T$  for all  $g \in G, t \in T$ .

**Proposition 14.4.** Let  $S = G\text{-set}$  and  $s \in S$ . The orbit  $G.s$  is the smallest  $G$ -stable subset of  $S$  containing  $s$ .

**Proof.**  $G.s$  is  $G$ -stable. If  $T$  is a  $G$ -stable subset containing  $s$  then  $G.s \subseteq T$ . Check these.

**Definition 14.5.** We say  $G$  acts transitively on  $G$ -set  $S$ , if  $S$  consists of a single orbit. i.e. for all  $t, s \in S$ , there exists  $g : g.s = t$ .



**Example 14.6.** Let  $G = \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})_n(\mathbb{C})$ .  $G$  acts on  $S = M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , the set of  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{C}$ , by conjugation, i.e. for all  $A \in G = \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $M \in S$ ,  $A.M = AMA^{-1}$ . Let us check indeed this gives a group action. Check axioms. (i)  $I_n.M = I_nMI^{-1} = M$ . (ii)  $A.(B.M) = A.(BMB^{-1}) = ABMB^{-1}A_1 = (AB)M(AB)^{-1} = (AB).M$ . What are the orbits?  $GM = \{AMA^{-1} : A \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})\}$ .

**Definition 14.7** (Stabilisers). Let  $s \in S$ . Then the stabiliser of  $s$  is  $\text{stab}_G(s) = \{g \in G : g.s = s\} \subseteq G$

**Proposition 14.8.** Let  $S$  be a  $G$ -set and let  $s \in S$ . Then  $\text{stab}_G(s) \leq G$ .

## 15 Structure of $G$ -orbits

**Proposition 15.1.** Let  $H \leq G$ . Then  $G/H$  is a  $G$ -set with the action  $g'.(gH) = (g'g)H$  for all  $g, g' \in G$

**Proof.** Checking axioms to show  $G/H$  is a  $G$ -set.

(i)  $1.(gH) = gH$

(ii)  $g''.(g'.(gH)) = (g''g')(gH)$ . LHS =  $g''.(g'gH) = g''g'gH = (g''g')gH = \text{RHS}$ .

**Theorem 15.2** (Structure of  $G$ -orbits). Suppose  $G$  acts transitively on  $S$ . Let  $s \in S$  and  $H = \text{stab}_G(s) \leq G$ . Then there is an isomorphism of  $G$ -sets:  $\psi : G/H \rightarrow S; gH \mapsto g.s$ .

**Proof.** Well-defined: if  $gH = g'H$  then  $g' = gh$  for  $h \in H$ . So we need to check  $g.s = g'.s$ . RHS =  $g'.s = (gh).s = g.(h.s) = g.s = \text{LHS}$ , for  $h \in \text{stab}(s)$ .

Next we need to check its a morphism of  $G$ -sets. i.e.  $\psi(g'(gH)) = g'.\psi(gH) \implies (g'g).s = g'.(g.s)$ . Next surjective because action is transitive. Injective: if  $\psi(gH) = \psi(g'H) \implies g.s = g'.s \implies s = (g^{-1}g').s$ . So  $g^{-1}g' \in \text{stab}(s) = H$  so  $g' \in gH, gH = g'H$ .

**Corollary 15.3.** If  $G$  is finite then,  $|G.s|$  divides  $|G|$  by Lagrange's theorem.

**Proposition 15.4.** Let  $S = G$ -set,  $s \in S, g \in G$ . Then  $\text{stab}_G(g.s) = g.\text{stab}_G(s).g^{-1}$ .

**Corollary 15.5.** Let  $H_1, H_2 \leq G$  be conjugate. (i.e.  $H_2 = gH_1g^{-1}$  for some  $g \in G$ ). Then  $G/H_1 \cong G/H_2$  as  $G$ -sets.

**Definition 15.6.** If  $S$  = a platonic solid (all faces same, and all regular polygons, and same number of faces at each vertex) and  $G$  = group of rotation symmetries = symmetries  $\cap SO_3$ .

**Proposition 15.7.** With notation as above, then  $|G|$  = number of faces  $\times$  number of edges on each face.

**Proof.** Let  $F$  = set of faces,  $G$  acts on  $F$ . Gives a  $G$ -set structure to  $F$ . Let  $f \in F$  be a face, then  $G.f = F$  (i.e. action is transitive). By the theorem,  $F \cong G/\text{stab}_G(f)$ . But  $\text{stab}_G(f)$  = rotations around axis through face.  $\text{stab}_G(f)$  = number of edges on each face which implies  $|G| = |F| |\text{stab}_G(f)|$ .

## 16 Counting Orbits and Cayley's Theorem

Let  $G$  be a group and  $S$  be a  $G$ -set.

**Definition 16.1** (Fixed Point Set). The fixed point set of a subset  $J \subseteq G$  is  $S^J = \{s \in S : j.s = s \text{ for all } j \in J\}$ .

**Proposition 16.2.** Let  $S$  be a  $G$ -set

- i) If  $J_1 \subseteq J_2 \subseteq G$  then  $S^{J_2} \subseteq S^{J_1}$
- ii) If  $J \subseteq G$  then  $S^J = S^{\langle J \rangle}$

**Example 16.3.**  $G = \text{Perm}(\mathbb{R}^2)$  acts naturally on  $S = \mathbb{R}^2$ . Let  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in G$  be reflections about lines  $L_1, L_2$ . Then  $S^{\tau_i} = L_i$ ,  $S^{\{\tau_1, \tau_2\}} = L_1 \cap L_2$  and  $S^{\langle \tau_1, \tau_2 \rangle} = L_1 \cap L_2$ .

**Theorem 16.4.** Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $S$  be a finite  $G$ -set. Let  $|X|$  denote the cardinality of  $X$ . Then

$$\text{number of orbits of } S = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |S^g| = \text{average size of the fixed point set}$$

**Proof.** Let  $S = \dot{\bigcup}_i S_i$  where  $S_i$  are  $G$ -orbits. Then  $S^g = \dot{\bigcup}_i S_i^g$ . LHS =  $\sum_i$  number of orbits of  $S_i$  (since  $S_i$ 's are union of  $G$ -orbits and  $S_i$ 's are disjoint) while RHS =  $\sum_i \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |S_i^g|$ . Thus it suffices to prove theorem for  $S = S_i$  and then just sum over  $i$ . But  $S$  are disjoint union of  $G$ -orbits, so can assume  $S = S_i = G$ -orbit which by (Theorem 15.2), means  $S \cong G/H$  for some  $H \leq G$ . So in this case

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RHS} &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |S^g| \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \times \text{number of } (g, s) \in G \times S : g.s = s \text{ by letting } g \text{ vary all over } G \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{s \in S=G/H} |\text{stab}_G(s)| \end{aligned}$$

Note by proposition 15.4, these stabilisers are all conjugates, and hence all have the same size. Since  $|\text{stab}_G(1.H)| = |H|$ ,  $|\text{stab}_G(s)| = |H|$  for all  $s \in S$ . Hence RHS =  $\frac{1}{G} |G/H| |H| = \frac{|H|}{|G|} \frac{|G|}{|H|} = 1$  and LHS = number of orbits of  $S = 1$  as  $S$  is assumed to be a  $G$ -orbit.

**Example 16.5.** Birthday cake with 8 slices. Red/green candle on each slice. How many ways? Notice that: two arrangements are the same if you can rotate one to get the other.

$S = \{0, 1\}^8$ ,  $|S| = 2^8 = 256$ .  $\sigma \in \text{Perm}(S)$  acts by  $\sigma(x_1, \dots, x_8) = (x_2, x_3, \dots, x_8, x_1)$ .  $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$ ,  $|G| = 8$ . We want to find number of  $G$ -orbits. By the theorem above, this is equal to  $\frac{1}{8} \sum_{g \in G} |S^g|$ . Trying each  $g$ :

$$\begin{array}{llll}
g = 1 & \implies |S^1| = 2^8 & g = \sigma^4 & \implies |S^{\sigma^4}| = 2^4 \\
g = \sigma & \implies |S^\sigma| = 2 & g = \sigma^5 & \implies |S^{\sigma^5}| = 2 \\
g = \sigma^2 & \implies |S^{\sigma^2}| = 2^2 & g = \sigma^6 & \implies |S^{\sigma^6}| = 2^2 \\
g = \sigma^3 & \implies |S^{\sigma^3}| = 2 & g = \sigma^7 & \implies |S^{\sigma^7}| = 2
\end{array}$$

$$\text{Final Answer: } \frac{1}{8} (256 + 16 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 \cdot 2) = \frac{1}{8} (288) = 36.$$

**Definition 16.6** (Faithful Permutation Representation). A permutation representation  $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm } S$  is faithful if  $\ker \phi = 1$ .

**Theorem 16.7** (Cayley). Let  $G$  be a group. Then  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $\text{Perm}(G)$ . In particular, if  $|G| = n < \infty$ , then  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $G$  act on itself:  $g.h = gh$ . This gives  $\phi : G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(G)$ . If  $g \in G$  has property that  $gh = h$  for all  $h \in G$  then  $g = 1$ . Clear, take  $h = 1$ .

# Part II

## Ring Theory

### 17 Rings

**Definition 17.1** (Ring). A ring is an abelian group  $R$ , with group addition together with ring multiplication map  $(\mu : R \times R \rightarrow R)$  satisfying:

- i) associativity:  $(rs)t = r(st)$  for all  $r, s, t \in R$ .
- ii) there exists  $1_R \in R$  such that  $1r = r$  and  $r1 = r$  for all  $r \in R$ .
- iii) distributive law:  $r(s + t) = rs + rt$  and  $(r + s)t = rt + st$  for all  $r, s, t \in R$ .

Similar to a group,  $1$  is unique and  $0r = 0$ .

**Example 17.2.**  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}$  are all rings.

**Example 17.3.** Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Define  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$  be the set of linear maps  $T : V \rightarrow V$ . Then  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$  is a ring when endowed with ring addition equal to sum of linear maps, ring multiplication equal to composition of linear maps.  $0 = \text{constant map to } \mathbf{0}$  and  $1 = \text{id}_V$ .

**Proposition - Definition 17.4** (Subrings). A subset of  $S \subseteq R$  is a subring if:

- i)  $s + s' \in S$  for all  $s, s' \in S$
- ii)  $ss' \in S$  for all  $s, s' \in S$
- iii)  $-s \in S$  for all  $s \in S$
- iv)  $0_R \in S$
- v)  $1_R \in S$ .

Then  $S$  becomes a ring with restricted  $+, \cdot, 0, 1$ . Note the identity  $1_R$  is the identity from  $R$ .

**Example 17.5.**  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}$  are all subrings of  $\mathbb{C}$ . Also the set of Gaussian integers  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is a subring.

**Example 17.6.** Matrices  $M_n(\mathbb{R})$  and  $N_n(\mathbb{C})$  both form rings. The set of upper triangular matrices form a subring.

**Proposition 17.7.** i) subrings of subrings are subrings

ii) intersection of subrings is a subring

**Proposition - Definition 17.8** (Units). Let  $R = \text{ring}$ . An element  $u \in R$  is called a unit or invertible if there exists  $v \in R$  such that  $uv = 1$  and  $vu = 1$ . Define  $R^* = \{\text{set of units in } R\}$  as a group (with multiplicative structure).

**Example 17.9.**  $\mathbb{Z}^* = \{1, -1\}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}^* = \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}$

**Definition 17.10** (Commutative Ring). A ring  $R$  is commutative if  $rs = sr$  for all  $r, s \in R$ .

**Definition 17.11** (Fields). A commutative ring  $R$  is a field if  $R^* = R - 0$ . i.e. Every non-zero element is invertible.

## 18 Ideals and Quotient Rings

Let  $R = \text{ring}$ .

**Definition 18.1** (Ideals). A subgroup  $I$  of the underlying abelian group  $R$  is called an ideal of  $R$  if

$$\text{for all } r \in R, x \in I, \text{ we have } rx \in I \text{ and } xr \in I.$$

Then we write  $I \trianglelefteq R$ .

**Example 18.2.**  $n\mathbb{Z} \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$  is an ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}$ . It is a subgroup as if  $m \in n\mathbb{Z}$  then  $rm \in n\mathbb{Z}$  for any integer  $r$ .

**Lemma 18.3.** If  $\{I_i\}_{i \in A}$  ideals in  $R$  then  $\bigcap_{i \in A} I_i$  is an ideal of  $R$ .

**Corollary 18.4.** Let  $R = \text{ring}$ ,  $S \subseteq R$  any subset. Let  $J = \text{set of all ideals } I \trianglelefteq R \text{ such that } S \subseteq I$ . Define  $\langle S \rangle = \bigcap_{I \in J} I$  as the ideal generated by  $S$ . (i.e. smallest ideal containing  $S$ ).

**Proposition 18.5.** i) If  $I, J \trianglelefteq R$  then ideal generated by  $I \cup J$  is  $I + J = \{i + j : i \in I, j \in J\}$ .

ii) Assume  $R$  is commutative and  $x \in R$ . Then  $\langle x \rangle = Rx = \{rx : r \in R\} \subseteq R$ .

iii)  $R$  commutative,  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R$ . Then  $\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle = Rx_1 + \dots + Rx_n = \{r_1x_1 + \dots + r_nx_n : r_1, \dots, r_n \in R\}$ . Set of  $R$ -linear combinations of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

**Proposition - Definition 18.6** (Quotient Rings). Let  $I \trianglelefteq R$ . The abelian group  $R/I$  has a well-defined multiplication map  $\mu : R/I \times R/I \rightarrow R/I; (r + I, s + I) \mapsto rs + I$  which makes  $R/I$  into a ring, called the quotient ring of  $R$  by  $I$ .

**Proof.** Check multiplication is well defined, given  $x, y \in I$ , we need  $rs + I = (r + x)(s + y) + I$ .  
RHS =  $rs + xs + ry + xy + I = rs + I$  as  $xs, ry, xy \in I$ . Note that the ring axioms for  $R/I$  follow from ring axioms for  $R$ .

**Example 18.7.** Again  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is essentially modulo  $n$  arithmetic, i.e.  $(i + n\mathbb{Z})(j + n\mathbb{Z}) = ij + n\mathbb{Z}$ . Thus  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  represents not only the addition but also the multiplication in modulo  $n$ .

## 19 Ring Homomorphisms

**Proposition - Definition 19.1** (Homomorphism). Let  $R, S$  be rings. A ring homomorphism is a group homomorphism  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  such that:

- i)  $\phi(1_R) = 1_S$
- ii)  $\phi(rr') = \phi(r)\phi(r')$  for all  $r, r' \in R$ .

**Definition 19.2** (Isomorphism). A ring isomorphism is a bijective ring homomorphism  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$ . In this case  $\phi^{-1}$  is also a ring homomorphism. We write  $R \cong S$  as rings.

**Proposition 19.3.** Let  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  be a ring homomorphism.

- i) If  $R'$  is a subring of  $R$  then  $\phi(R')$  is a subring of  $S$ .
- ii) If  $S'$  is a subring of  $S$  then  $\phi^{-1}(S')$  is a subring of  $R$ .
- iii) If  $I \trianglelefteq S$  then  $\phi^{-1}(I) \trianglelefteq R$

**Corollary 19.4.** In particular,  $\text{Im } \phi = \phi(R)$  is a subring of  $S$  and  $\ker \phi = \phi^{-1}(0) \trianglelefteq R$ .

**Theorem 19.5.** Let  $R = \text{ring}$ ,  $I = \text{ideal}$  with  $\pi : R \rightarrow R/I$  be a quotient map. Suppose  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  is a ring homomorphism such that  $I \subseteq \ker \phi$ . Recall group situation gives a map  $\psi : R/I \rightarrow S$  then  $\psi$  is also a ring homomorphism. Special case for  $I = \ker \phi$ :  $R/\ker \phi \cong \text{Im } \phi$  (as rings).

**Proposition 19.6.** Let  $J \trianglelefteq R$  and let  $\pi : R \rightarrow R/J$  be quotient map. Then there is a 1-1 correspondence:

$$\{I \trianglelefteq R \text{ such that } J \subseteq I\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{ideals } \bar{I} \trianglelefteq R/J\}$$

**Definition 19.7.** An ideal  $I \trianglelefteq R$ , with  $I \neq R$ , is called maximal if it is not contained in any strictly larger ideal  $J \neq R$ .

**Example 19.8.**  $10\mathbb{Z} \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$  is not maximal as  $10\mathbb{Z} \subsetneq 2\mathbb{Z} \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$ . However  $2\mathbb{Z} \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$  is maximal.

**Proposition 19.9.** Let  $R \neq 0$  be a commutative ring.

- i)  $R$  is a field  $\iff$  every proper ideal is maximal
- ii) if  $I \trianglelefteq R$ , with  $I \neq R$ ,  $I$  is maximal  $\iff R/I$  is a field

**Proof.** Assume  $R$  is a field. Let  $I \trianglelefteq R$ , and assume  $I \neq 0$ . Then can choose  $x \in I, x \neq 0$ . Then  $x$  is invertible, let  $y = x^{-1}$  then  $1 = yx \in I$  therefore  $I = R$ .

Converse: assume only ideals of  $R$  are 0 and  $R$ . Take any  $x \in R, x \neq 0$ . Consider  $I = \langle x \rangle$ , cannot be 0, since  $x \in I$  then  $I = R$  so  $xy = 1$  for some  $y$ . This proves  $x$  is invertible so  $R$  is a field.

**Theorem 19.10** (Second Isomorphism Theorem).  $R$  is a ring.  $I \trianglelefteq R, J \trianglelefteq R$  with  $J \subseteq I$ . Then  $\frac{R/J}{I/J} \cong R/I$ .

**Proof.** Consider  $R \rightarrow R/J \rightarrow \frac{R/J}{I/J}$ , show kernel is  $I$ . Then follows from First Isomorphism Theorem.

**Theorem 19.11** (Third Isomorphism Theorem). Let  $S \subseteq R$  be a subring and  $I \trianglelefteq R$ . Then  $S + I$  is a subring of  $R$  and  $S \cap I \trianglelefteq S$ .

$$\frac{S}{S \cap I} \cong \frac{S + I}{I}.$$

**Example 19.12.**  $S = \mathbb{C}[x]$  subring of  $R = \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ . Let  $I = \langle y \rangle \trianglelefteq \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ .

- $S \cap I = \mathbb{C}[x] \cap \langle y \rangle = 0$ .
- $S + I = \mathbb{C}[x, y] = R$

Then by the Third Isomorphism Theorem,

$$\frac{S}{S \cap I} = \frac{\mathbb{C}[x]}{0} = \mathbb{C}[x] \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{S + I}{I} = \frac{\mathbb{C}[x, y]}{\langle y \rangle},$$

$$\mathbb{C}[x, y]/\langle y \rangle \cong \mathbb{C}[x].$$

## 20 Polynomial Rings

**Definition 20.1** (Polynomials). Let  $R$  be a ring. A polynomial in  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$  is a formal expression of the form

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \sum_{i \geq 0} r_i x^i \quad \text{where } r_i \in R \text{ and } r_i = 0 \text{ for all sufficiently large } i. \\ &= r_0 x^0 + r_1 x^1 + \cdots + r_n x^n. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $R[x]$  denote the set of all such polynomials.

**Proposition - Definition 20.2** (Polynomial Ring).  $R[x]$  is a ring. called the (univariate) polynomial ring with coefficients in  $R$ , when equipped with:

- Addition:  $\sum_{i \geq 0} r_i x^i + \sum_{i \geq 0} r'_i x^i = \sum_{i \geq 0} (r_i + r'_i) x^i$ .
- Multiplication:  $(\sum_{i \geq 0} r_i x^i) + (\sum_{i \geq 0} r'_i x^i) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \left( \sum_{j+k=i} r_j r'_k \right) x^i$ .
- Zero:  $r_i = 0$  for all  $i$ .
- One:  $r_0 = 1$  and  $r_i = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$ .

**Proposition 20.3.** Let  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  be a ring homomorphism

- $R$  is a subring of  $R[x]$  under  $r \mapsto r + 0x + 0x^2 + \cdots$
- $\phi$  induces  $\phi[x] : R[x] \rightarrow S[x]$  where  $\phi(\sum_{i \geq 0} r_i x^i) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \phi(r_i) x^i$  and this is a ring homomorphism.

**Definition 20.4** (Evaluation Homomorphism). Let  $S \subset R$  be a subring. Let  $r \in R$  such that  $rs = sr$  for all  $s \in S$ . Define evaluation map:

$$\epsilon_r : S[x] \rightarrow R; \quad p = \sum_{i \geq 0} s_i x^i \mapsto \sum_{i \geq 0} s_i r^i = p(r).$$

**Proposition 20.5.**  $\epsilon_r$  is a ring homomorphism from  $S[x] \rightarrow R$ .

**Corollary 20.6.** Assume  $R$  is commutative. Consider the map  $c : S[x] \rightarrow \text{Fun}(R, R); p \mapsto (r \mapsto p(r))$ . Thenc is a ring homomorphism.

**Example 20.7.**  $p(x) := x^2 + x \in (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})[x]$ . Trying values

$$p(0) = 0^2 + 0 = 0 \quad p(1) = 1^2 + 1 = 0$$

$p(\alpha) = 0$  for all  $\alpha$  in domain  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ . We have  $p \neq 0$  in  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})[x]$  but  $c(p) = 0$ . That is,  $p$  defines a zero function.

**Polynomials in Several Variables** A possible definition is that

$$R[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] = (\dots ((R[x_1])[x_2])[x_3] \dots [x_n]) = R[x_1][x_2] \cdots [x_n].$$

Another definition is that  $R[x_1, \dots, x_n] = \left\{ \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}^n} r_i x^i : \text{only finitely many non-zero } r_i \text{'s.} \right\}$ . Defined similarly to  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n) : x^i = x_1^{i_1} x_2^{i_2} \dots x_n^{i_n}$ . This definition then requires you to define suitable ring operations.

**Proposition - Definition 20.8.** Let  $S$  be a subring of commutative ring  $R$  and  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in R$ . Then  $S[r_1, \dots, r_n]$  is the subring of  $R$  generated by  $S \cup \{r_1, \dots, r_n\}$ . Equivalently it is the image of  $S[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  under the evaluation map  $x_i \mapsto r_i$  for all  $i$ .

**Example 20.9.**  $R = \mathbb{C}, S = \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is the subring generated by  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $i$ . That is,

$$\mathbb{Z}[i] = \text{Im}(\epsilon_i : \mathbb{Z}[x] \mapsto \mathbb{C}) = \left\{ \sum_{j \geq 0} a_j i^j : a_j \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} = \{a + ib : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

## 21 Matrix Rings

Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $M_n(R)$  is the set of  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in  $R$ . Denoted,

$$(r_{ij}) = \begin{pmatrix} r_{11} & r_{12} & \cdots & r_{1n} \\ r_{21} & r_{22} & \cdots & r_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ r_{n1} & r_{n2} & \cdots & r_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \quad r_{ij} \in R.$$

**Proposition 21.1.**  $M_n(R)$  is a ring with operations

- $(a_{ij}) + (b_{ij}) = (a_{ij} + b_{ij})$
- $(a_{ij})(b_{ij}) = (c_{ij})$  where  $c_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} b_{kj}$ . Here order of multiplication is significant.



$$\bullet 1_{M_n(R)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1_R & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1_R & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1_R \end{pmatrix}$$

Note  $R$  not necessarily commutative. e.g.  $M_3(M_2(\mathbb{R}))$ .

**Example 21.2.** In  $M_2(\mathbb{C}[x])$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x^3 & 0 \\ 4 & -x^5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4x + x^3 & -x^6 \\ 8 & -2x^5 \end{pmatrix}$

## 22 Direct Products

**Proposition 22.1.** Let  $R_i, i \in I$  be rings.  $\Pi_{i \in I} R_i$  is already an abelian group under addition. It becomes a ring with multiplication:  $(r_i)(s_i) = (r_i s_i)$  and identity  $(1_R, 1_R, \dots)$

**Example 22.2.** For  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ , we define

- Addition:  $(a, b) + (a', b') = (a + a', b + b')$
- Multiplication:  $(a, b)(a', b') = (aa', bb')$
- Identity:  $(1, 1)$

Note  $\mathbb{R}$  is a field. But  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$  is not a field because  $(1, 0)$  has no inverse.

**Lemma 22.3.** Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $I_1, \dots, I_n \trianglelefteq R$  such that  $I_i + I_j = R$  for each pair of  $i, j$ . Then  $I_1 + \cap_{i \geq 2} I_i = R$ .

**Proof.** Choose  $a_i \in I_1, b_i \in I_i$  such that  $a_i + b_i = 1$  for  $i = 2, \dots, n$  since  $I_1 + I_i = R$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= (a_2 + b_2)(a_3 + b_3) \cdots (a_n + b_n) \\ &= [\text{sum of terms involving } a_i] + (b_2 b_3 \cdots b_n) \\ &\in I_1 + \cap_{i \geq 2} I_i. \end{aligned}$$

So  $R = I_1 + \cap_{i \geq 2} I_i$  as  $r \in R, r1 = r \in I_1 + \cap_{i \geq 2} I_i$ .

**Theorem 22.4** (Chinese Remainder Theorem). Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $I_1, \dots, I_n \trianglelefteq R$  such that  $I_i + I_j = R$  for each pair of  $i, j$ . Then the natural map

$$\begin{aligned} R / \cap_{i=1}^n I_i &\rightarrow R/I_1 \times R/I_2 \times \cdots \times R/I_n \\ r + \cap_{i=1}^n I_i &\mapsto (r + I_1, r + I_2, \dots, r + I_n) \end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** (Missing some details). We prove the result by induction on  $n$ . Let  $n = 2$ . Consider  $\psi : R/(I_1 \cap I_2) \rightarrow R/I_1 \times R/I_2$  with  $r + (I_1 \cap I_2) \mapsto (r + I_1, r + I_2)$ . Then  $\psi$  is well-defined if  $r - s \in I_1 \cap I_2$  then  $r + I_1 = s + I_1$  and  $r + I_2 = s + I_2$ . If  $\psi(r + (I_1 \cap I_2)) = 0$  then  $r \in I_1$  and  $r \in I_2$  so  $r \in I_1 \cap I_2$  so  $\psi$  is injective. Choose  $x_1 \in I_1, x_2 \in I_2$  such that  $x_1 + x_2 = 1$ . Now given  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ , observe  $\psi(r_2 x_1 + r_1 x_2) = (r_2 x_1 + r_1 x_2 + I_1, r_2 x_1 + r_1 x_2 + I_2)$ . Consider  $r_2 x_1 + r_1 x_2 + I_1$ . Then  $r_2 x_1 \in I_1$

as  $x_1 \in I_1$  and  $r_1x_2 = r_1(1 - x_1) = r_1 - r_1x_1$  with  $x_1 \in I_1$  which implies  $r_2x_1 + r_1x_2 + I_1 = r_1 + I_1$ . Similarly  $r_2x_1 + r_1x_2 + I_2 = r_2 + I_2$ . So  $\psi(r_2x_1 + r_1x_2) = (r_1 + I_1, r_2 + I_2)$  hence  $\psi$  is onto. Using the above lemma, we have the  $n = 2$  case.

**Example 22.5.** If  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $I_1 = 3\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $I_2 = 5\mathbb{Z}$  then  $I_1 \cap I_2 = 15\mathbb{Z}$ . So we have the following isomorphism,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{Z}/15\mathbb{Z} &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \\ n + 15\mathbb{Z} &\mapsto (r + 3\mathbb{Z}, r + 5\mathbb{Z})\end{aligned}$$

Note  $\mathbb{Z}/24\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$  is not an isomorphism.

## 23 Field of Fractions

In this section let  $R$  be a commutative ring.

**Definition 23.1** (Domain).  $R$  is called a domain (or integral domain) if for all  $r, s \in R : rs = 0 \implies r = 0$  or  $s = 0$ . i.e.  $R$  does not have non-trivial zer divisors.

**Example 23.2.**  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  are both domains.  $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$  is not a domain as  $2 \times 3 = 0$  but neither  $2 \neq 0, 3 \neq 0$ . However  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  for a prime  $p$  is a domain. In fact, any field is a domain.

Then we define  $\tilde{R} = R \times (R - 0) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} : a \in R, b \in R - 0 \right\}$ . Now define a relation on  $\tilde{R}$ :  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} a' \\ b' \end{pmatrix}$  if  $ab' = a'b$ .

**Lemma 23.3.**  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation on  $\tilde{R}$ .

**Proof.** Reflexive and symmetric are easy. For transitivity, if  $ab' = a'b$  and  $a'b'' = a''b'$  then the first equation implies  $ab'b'' = a'bb'' = a''bb' \implies (ab'' - a''b)b' = 0$ . Since  $R$  is a domain then  $ab'' = a''b$ .

**Notation** Let  $\frac{a}{b}$  denote the equivalence class of  $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$  and  $K(R) = \tilde{R} / \sim$ , the set of fractions.

**Lemma 23.4.** The operations  $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$  and  $\frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{c}{d} = \frac{ac}{bd}$  give well-defined addition and multiplication on  $K(R)$ .

**Theorem 23.5.** These ring addition/multiplication maps make  $K(R)$  into a field, with  $0_{K(R)} = \frac{0_R}{1_R}$  and  $1_{K(R)} = \frac{1_R}{1_R}$ .

**Example 23.6.**  $K(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $K(\mathbb{R}[x]) = \text{set of real rational functions} = \left\{ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} : f, g \in \mathbb{R}[x], g \neq 0 \right\}$ . Similarly,  $K(\mathbb{Q}[x]) = \left\{ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} : f, g \in \mathbb{Q}[x], g \neq 0 \right\} = K(\mathbb{Z}[x])$ . Let  $F$  be a field, then  $K(F[x_1, \dots, x_n]) = F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , where this indicates a field of rational functions in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  over  $F$ .

**Proposition 23.7.** i) The map  $\iota : R \rightarrow K(R); \alpha \mapsto \frac{\alpha}{1}$  is an injective ring homomorphism. This allows us to consider  $R$  as a subring of  $K(R)$ .

ii) If  $S$  is a subring of  $R$  then  $K(S)$  is essentially a subring of  $K(R)$ .

**Proposition 23.8.** If  $F$  is a field, then  $K(F) = F$ . i.e. the map  $\iota : F \rightarrow K(F)$  is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** Injective from above. Surjectivity as given  $\frac{a}{b} \in K(F), b \neq 0$ , then  $\iota(ab^{-1}) = \frac{ab^{-1}}{1} = \frac{a}{b}$  because  $(ab^{-1})b = 1a$ .

**Example 23.9.** By the above proposition we have  $K(\mathbb{Q}[i]) = \mathbb{Q}[i] = \{r + si : r, s \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ . But by Proposition 23.7,  $\mathbb{Z}[i] \leq \mathbb{Q}[i] \implies K(\mathbb{Z}[i]) \leq K(\mathbb{Q}[i])$  and hence  $K(\mathbb{Z}[i]) = \mathbb{Q}[i]$ . More generally,  $K(R)$  is the smallest field containing  $R$ .

## 24 Introduction to Factorisation Theory

In this section let  $R$  be a commutative domain.

**Definition 24.1** (Prime Ideal). An ideal  $P \trianglelefteq R, P \neq R$  is called prime if  $R/P$  is a domain. Equivalently, if  $rs \in P$  then either  $r \in P$  or  $s \in P$  (or both).

**Example 24.2.**  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  for prime  $p$ , is a domain, so  $p\mathbb{Z} \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$ .  $(0) \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z}$  is prime but not maximal.

$\langle y \rangle \trianglelefteq \mathbb{C}[x, y]$  is prime because  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]/\langle y \rangle \cong \mathbb{C}[x]$  is a domain.

If  $m \trianglelefteq R$  is maximal, then  $m$  is prime because  $R/m$  is a field which implies  $R/m$  is a domain.

**Definition 24.3** (Divisibility). Let  $r, s \in R$ . We say  $r \mid s$ , “ $r$  divides  $s$ ” if  $s = rt$  for some  $t \in R$ . Equivalently  $s \in \langle r \rangle$  or  $\langle s \rangle \subseteq \langle r \rangle$ .

**Example 24.4.**  $3 \mid 6$  as  $6\mathbb{Z} \subseteq 3\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Definition 24.5** (Associates). Let  $r, s \in R - 0$  are associates if one of the following two equivalent conditions hold:

- $\langle r \rangle = \langle s \rangle$  i.e.  $r \mid s$  and  $s \mid r$ .
- There is a unit  $u \in R^*$  ( $u$  is a unit of  $R$ ) with  $r = us$ .

**Example 24.6.** In  $\mathbb{Z} : \langle -2 \rangle = \langle 2 \rangle$  so  $2, -2$  are associates. In  $\mathbb{Z}[i] : \langle 3i \rangle = \langle 3 \rangle = \langle -3 \rangle$ .

**Definition 24.7** (Primes). An element  $p \in R, p \neq 0$  is prime if  $\langle p \rangle$  is prime. Equivalently  $p$  is not a unit, and  $p \mid rs \implies p \mid r$  or  $p \mid s$ .

**Definition 24.8** (Irreducibles). An element  $p \in R, p \neq 0, p$  is not a unit, is irreducible whenever  $p = rs$ , either  $r$  or  $s$  is a unit.

**Example 24.9.**  $p = 5 = 5 \cdot 1 = (-5)(-1) = 1 \cdot 5 = (-1)(-5)$ , so  $5$  is irreducible.  $p = 4 = 2 \cdot 2$  but neither  $2$  nor  $-2$  are units, so  $4$  is not irreducible.

**Proposition 24.10** (Prime implies Irreducible). Suppose  $p \in R$  is prime. Then  $p$  is not a unit (otherwise  $\langle p \rangle = R$  is not prime). Suppose  $p = rs, r, s \in R$  then  $p \mid rs$ . Without loss of generality say  $p \mid r$ , so  $r = pq$  for some  $q \in R$ . Then  $p = pqs \implies 1 = qs$ , so  $s$  is a unit.

**Definition 24.11** (Unique Factorisation Domains).  $R$  is a unique factorisation domain (UFD) if

- i) every nonzero non-unit  $r \in R$  can be written as  $r = p_1 \cdots p_n$  with all  $p_i$  irreducible.
- ii) if  $r = p_1 \cdots p_n = q_1 \cdots q_m$  with all  $p_i, q_i$  irreducible, then  $n = m$  and we can re-index the  $q_i$  such that  $p_i$  and  $q_i$  are associates for all  $i$ .

**Example 24.12.**  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a UFD. In  $\mathbb{Z}, 30 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 = (-5)(-3)2$ .  $12 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 = (-2)2(-3)$ .

**Lemma 24.13.** Assume every irreducible is prime. If  $r$  can be factored into irreducible (as in (i)) then the factorisation is unique (i.e. as in (ii)).

**Example 24.14.**  $R = \mathbb{C}[x]$  so  $\mathbb{C}[x]^\times = \mathbb{C}^\times$ . Any complex polynomial factors into linear factors (Fundamental Theorem of Algebra) so the irreducibles are linear polynomials, i.e.  $\alpha(x - \beta)$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbb{C}, \alpha \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ . We prove  $x - \beta$  is prime as  $\mathbb{C}[x]/\langle x - \beta \rangle \cong \mathbb{C}$  is a domain. i.e. every irreducible is prime.

**Proof.** Suppose  $r \in R, r = p_1 \cdots p_n = q_1 \cdots q_m$  (both products of irreducibles). Induction on  $n$ .  $n = 1, p_1 = q_1 \cdots q_m$ . Then by definition of irreducible,  $m = 1$  and  $p_1 = q_1$ .

Now suppose  $n > 1, p_1 \cdots p_n = q_1 \cdots q_m$ . Then  $p_1 \mid q_1 \cdots q_m$ , but  $p_1$  irreducible which means  $p_1$  is prime. Then  $p_1$  divides some  $q_i$ . After permuting  $q_i$ 's, assume  $p_1 \mid q_1$ . So  $q_1 = p_1 u$  where  $u$  is a unit. Cancel out  $p_1, q_1$  from relation,  $p_2 \cdots p_n = (u q_2) q_3 \cdots q_m$ . By induction,  $(p_2 \cdots p_n)$  is a permutation  $(u q_2 \cdots q_m)$  up to associates.

## 25 Principal Ideal Domains

**Definition 25.1** (Principal Ideal Domain). Let  $R$  be a commutative ring. An ideal  $I$  is principal if  $I = \langle r \rangle, r \in R$  (generated by a single element). A principal ideal domain (PID) is a domain where every ideal is principal.

**Example 25.2.**  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a PID, every ideal is of the form  $n\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 25.3.** Let  $R$  be a PID. Let  $p \in R, p \neq 0$ , then  $p$  is irreducible if and only if  $\langle p \rangle$  is maximal.

**Proof.** ( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $p$  is not irreducible, so  $p = rs$ . Neither  $r, s$  are units. Then  $\langle p \rangle = \langle rs \rangle \subsetneq \langle r \rangle$  so  $\langle p \rangle$  is not maximal. (Alternatively:  $\langle p \rangle$  maximal  $\implies \langle p \rangle$  prime  $\implies p$  prime  $\implies p$  irreducible.)

( $\implies$ ) Suppose  $\langle p \rangle \subseteq I$ . Since  $R$  is a PID,  $I = \langle q \rangle$  for some  $q$  hence  $q \mid p$ . Since  $p$  irreducible, either  $q = up (u \in R^*) \implies I = \langle q \rangle = \langle p \rangle$  or  $q$  is a unit so  $I = \langle q \rangle = R$ .

**Corollary 25.4.** In a PID, irreducibles are prime.

**Proof.**  $p$  ideal  $\implies \langle p \rangle$  maximal  $\implies R/\langle p \rangle$  is a field  $\implies R/\langle p \rangle$  is a domain  $\implies \langle p \rangle$  prime  $\implies p$  is prime.

Note, in a PID factorisations are unique if they exist.

**Lemma 25.5.** Let  $S$  be a ring. Let  $I_0, I_1, I_2, \dots$  are ideals of  $S$  such that  $I_0 \subseteq I_1 \subseteq I_2 \subseteq \dots$ . Then  $\bigcup_{i \geq 0} I_i$  is an ideal of  $S$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $x, y \in \bigcup_{i \geq 0} I_i$  then  $x \in I_n$  and  $y \in I_m$ , so  $x, y \in I_k$  where  $k = \max(n, m)$  therefore  $x + y \in I_k \subseteq \bigcup_{i \geq 0} I_i$ . Then prove other ideal properties.

**Theorem 25.6.** Any PID is a UFD.

**Proof.** We need to prove that any  $r_0 \in R$ , not has a factorisation into ideals. Suppose  $r_0 \in R$ , not a unit is not a product of irreducibles. In particular  $r$  itself is not irreducible, so  $r = r_1 q_1$  where  $r_1, q_1$  not units. At least one of  $r_1, q_1$  is not a product of irreducibles. Repeat this argument for  $r_1 = r_2 q_2$  where without loss of generality,  $r_2$  is not a product of irreducibles. Then we have  $r_0, r_1, r_2$  so  $r_1 \mid r_0, r_2 \mid r_1$  etc.. Then  $\langle r_0 \rangle \subseteq \langle r_1 \rangle \subseteq \langle r_2 \rangle \subseteq \dots$

Let  $I = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} \langle r_i \rangle$ . By the previous Lemma,  $I$  is an ideal. Since  $R$  is a PID,  $I = \langle s \rangle$ ,  $s \in R$ . So  $s \in \langle r_n \rangle$  for some  $n$ ,  $I \subseteq \langle r_n \rangle \subseteq \langle r_{n+1} \rangle \subseteq \dots \subseteq I$ . So in fact,  $I = \langle r_n \rangle = \langle r_{n+1} \rangle = \dots$  but this contradicts  $\langle r_n \rangle \subsetneq \langle r_{n+1} \rangle$  because  $r_n = r_{n+1} q_{n+1}$  where  $q_{n+1}$  is not a unit.

**Definition 25.7** (Greatest Common Divisor). Let  $R$  be a PID (works for UFD). Let  $r, s \in R, r, s \neq 0$ . Then a greatest common divisor (gcd) of  $r$  and  $s$  is an element  $d \in R$  such that  $d \mid r, d \mid s$  and if  $c \in R$  is any element such that  $c \mid r, c \mid s$ , then  $c \mid d$ . Write  $d = \gcd(r, s)$ .  $d$  is defined only up to units.

Any 2 gcd's divide each other so are associates.

**Proposition 25.8.** In a PID,  $r, s \in R - \{0\}$  then  $r, s$  have a gcd  $d$  such that  $\langle d \rangle = \langle r, s \rangle$ .

**Proof.** Given  $r, s$ . Consider  $\langle r, s \rangle = \{ar + bs : a, b \in R\}$ . Since  $R$  is PID,  $\langle r, s \rangle = \langle d \rangle$  for some  $d \in R$ .  $d \mid r$  is clear since  $r \in \langle d \rangle$ . Similarly  $d \mid s$ . Now suppose  $c \mid r$  and  $c \mid s$ . Then  $r, s \in \langle c \rangle \implies \langle r, s \rangle \subseteq \langle c \rangle \implies \langle d \rangle \subseteq \langle c \rangle \implies c \mid d$ .

## 26 Euclidean Domains

The motivation here is to give a useful criterion for a commutative domain to be a PID and UFD.

**Proposition 26.1.**  $R = \mathbb{C}[x]$  is a PID.

**Proof.** Let  $I$  be a nonzero ideal in  $\mathbb{C}[x]$ . Let  $f \in I$  be a nonzero element of smallest degree. It is clear that  $\langle f \rangle \subseteq I$ . Now given any  $g \in I$ , divide  $g$  by  $f$ :  $g = fq + r$ , where either  $r = 0$  or  $\deg r < \deg f$  (This uses the fact that  $\mathbb{C}[x]$  has a division algorithm). Thus  $f \in I$ , so  $qf \in I$  also  $g \in I \implies r = g - qf \in I$ . By choice of  $f$  (minimal degree in  $I$ ) we must have  $r = 0$ . Therefore  $f \mid g$  i.e.  $g \in \langle f \rangle$  so  $I \subseteq \langle f \rangle$ . This proves  $I = \langle f \rangle$ .

**Definition 26.2** (Euclidean Domain). Let  $R$  be a commutative domain. A function  $\nu : R - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is called a Euclidean function on  $R$  if:

- i) for all  $f, p \in R, p \neq 0$ , there exists  $q, r \in R$  such that  $f = pq + r$  where either  $r = 0$  or  $\nu(r) < \nu(p)$ .
- ii) if  $f, g \in R - \{0\}$  then  $\nu(f) \leq \nu(fg)$ .

If  $R$  has such a function, we call it an Euclidean domain.

**Example 26.3.** If  $R = F[x]$  where  $F$  is a field. Then  $\nu(f) = \deg f$ . If  $R = \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $\nu(n) = |n|$ .

**Theorem 26.4.** Let  $R$  be a Euclidean domain with  $\nu$ . Then  $R$  is a PID and hence a UFD.

**Proof.** Let  $I \trianglelefteq R$  be nonzero ideal. Choose  $f \in I$  with minimal  $\nu(f)$ . Clearly  $\langle f \rangle \subseteq I$ . Given  $g \in I$  write  $g = qf + r$  with  $r = 0$  or  $\nu(r) < \nu(f)$  as before (previous proof)  $r \in I$ . So  $r = 0$  then  $f \mid g$  so  $I \subseteq \langle g \rangle$ .

**Lemma 26.5.** Let  $R$  be one of  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-1}]$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}]$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}]$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{-7}}{2}]$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{-11}}{2}]$ . Define  $\nu : R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\nu(z) = |z|^2$ . Then

- i)  $\nu$  takes integer values on  $R$
- ii) for any  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , there is some  $s \in R$  such that  $\nu(z - s) < 1$ .

**Proof.** We prove this for  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}] = \{a + b\sqrt{-2} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . Then  $\nu(a + b\sqrt{-2}) = |a + b\sqrt{-2}|^2 = a^2 + 2b^2 \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $z = x + iy \in \mathbb{C}$ . Choose  $s$  to be closest  $a + b\sqrt{-2}$  to  $z$ . Then  $|a - x| \leq \frac{1}{2}$  and  $|b\sqrt{2} - y| \leq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ . Then

$$|s - z|^2 = |(a + b\sqrt{-2}) - (x + iy)|^2 \leq (\frac{1}{2})^2 + (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})^2 = \frac{3}{4} < 1.$$

So  $\nu(s - z) < 1$ . We can repeat this argument for the other cases with simple modification of the argument.

**Theorem 26.6.** Let  $R$  be one of the rings from the previous lemma. Then  $\nu$  is a Euclidean norm on  $R$ .

**Note** For the remainder of this section, denote  $R$  to be a Euclidean domain and  $\nu : R \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_+$  the Euclidean norm.

**Proposition 26.7.** Let  $I \trianglelefteq R$  be an ideal. Let  $p \in I, p \neq 0$ . Then  $p$  generates  $I \iff \nu(p)$  is minimal (on  $I$ ). In particular,  $p \in R^* \iff \nu(p) = \nu(1)$ .

**Proof.** If  $\nu(p)$  minimal then by the results prior  $I = \langle p \rangle$ . Conversely, if  $I = \langle p \rangle$  and  $f = gp \in I$  for some  $g$  then  $\nu(f) = \nu(gp) \geq \nu(p)$ .

**Example 26.8.** In  $\mathbb{Z}[i] : \nu(z) = |z|^2$ .  $u \in \mathbb{Z}[i]^* \implies |u|^2 = 1 \implies u = \pm 1, \pm i$ . Also,  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}]^* = \{\pm 1\}$  for  $\nu(z) = |z|^2$ .

**Theorem 26.9** (Euclidean Algorithm). To find the gcd of two elements  $f$  and  $g$  we can use the following algorithm. Assume  $\nu(f) \geq \nu(g)$ . Find  $q, r \in R$  such that  $f = qg + r$  with either  $r = 0$  or  $\nu(r) < \nu(g)$ . If  $r = 0$ , then  $\langle f, g \rangle = \langle g \rangle$  because  $f \in \langle f \rangle$  so the gcd is  $g$ . If  $r \neq 0$ , then  $\langle f, g \rangle = \langle g, r \rangle$  since  $f \in \langle g, r \rangle (f = qg + r), r \in \langle f, g \rangle (r = f - qg)$ . So  $\gcd(f, g) = \gcd(g, r)$ . In this case, repeat first step with  $g, r$  instead of  $f, g$ . The algorithm terminates because  $\nu(r) < \nu(g)$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  has minimum at 0.

**Example 26.10.** In  $R = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}]$ , find  $\gcd(y + \sqrt{-2}, 2\sqrt{-2})$  for  $y$  odd. Answer is 1, see course notes for computation.

**Theorem 26.11.** The only integer solutions to  $y^2 + 2 = x^3$  are  $y = \pm 5, x = 3$ .

**Proof.** If  $y$  is even, then  $x^3$  is even, then  $x$  is even. So  $x^3 = 0 \pmod{8}$ . But  $LHS$  can only be 2 or 6  $\pmod{8}$ , hence  $y$  must be odd.

Let's work in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}]$ . The equation becomes  $(y + \sqrt{-2})(y - \sqrt{-2}) = x^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(y + \sqrt{-2}, y - \sqrt{-2}) &= \gcd(y + \sqrt{-2}, (y - \sqrt{-2}) - (y + \sqrt{-2})) \\ &= \gcd(y + \sqrt{-2}, 2\sqrt{-2}) \\ &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

Now have:  $(y + \sqrt{-2})(y - \sqrt{-2}) = x^3$ . By UFD,  $y + \sqrt{-2} = u\alpha^3$  where  $u \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}]^*$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-2}]$ .

More detail: consider prime factorisation of  $y + \sqrt{-2}, y - \sqrt{-2}, x^3$ . Any prime must occur as  $p^{3e}$  on RHS for some  $e \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $e \geq 1$ , then  $p \mid$  either  $y + \sqrt{-2}$  or  $y - \sqrt{-2}$  but not both. So  $p^{3e}$  is the exact power of  $p$  divides either  $y + \sqrt{-2}$  or  $y - \sqrt{-2}$ .

Possible units:  $u \pm 1$  which are both cubes. So

$$\begin{aligned}y + \sqrt{-2} &= \beta^3 = (a + b\sqrt{-2})^3 \\ &= a^3 + 3a^2b\sqrt{-2} - 6ab^2 - 2b^3\sqrt{-2} \\ &= (a^3 - 6ab^2) + \sqrt{-2}(3a^2b - 2b^3) \\ y - \sqrt{-2} &= (a^3 - 6ab^2) - \sqrt{-2}(3a^2b - 2b^3).\end{aligned}$$

Subtract both sides

$$\begin{aligned}2\sqrt{-2} &= 2\sqrt{-2}(3a^2b - 2b^3) \\ 1 &= 3a^2b - 2b^3 = b(3a^2 - 2b^2) \\ b &= \pm 1\end{aligned}$$

Then you can find  $a$ , deduce  $y$  which then gives  $x$ .

## 27 Gauss's Lemma

**Proposition 27.1.** In a UFD, any irreducibles are primes.

**Proof.** Follows from observation that  $q_1 \mid rt \implies q_1 = up_j$  or  $q_1 = vr_l, u, v \in R^*$  by unique factorisation. Therefore  $q_1 \mid p_j \mid r$  or  $q_1 \mid r_l \mid t$ .

**Definition 27.2** (Primitive Polynomials).  $f \in R[x], f \neq 0$  is primitive if the gcd of its coefficients is 1.

**Example 27.3.**  $3x^2 + 2 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  is primitive, but  $6x^2 + 4$  is not.

**Proposition 27.4.** Let  $R$  be a UFD and  $K = K(R)$ .

- i) if  $f \in K[x], f \neq 0$ , then there exists  $\alpha \in K^*$  such that  $\alpha f \in R[x]$  and  $\alpha f$  primitive
- ii) if  $f \in R[x], f \neq 0$  is primitive, and  $\alpha \in K^*$  such that  $\alpha f \in R[x]$  then  $\alpha \in R$ .

**Proof.**

- i) Choose  $d = \text{common denominator}$ , then  $df \in R[x]$ . Now choose  $e = \gcd(\text{coefficients of } df) \in R$ . Then  $\frac{df}{e} \in R[x]$  and primitive so take  $\alpha = \frac{d}{e}$ .
- ii) Let  $\alpha = \frac{n}{d}$  with  $n \in R, d \in R, d \neq 0$ . Then  $\gcd(\text{coefficients of } nf) = n \gcd(\text{coefficients of } f) = n \times 1 = n = d \gcd(\text{coefficients of } (\frac{b}{d})f) = d \gcd(\text{coefficients of } \alpha f) \implies n = \text{multiple of } d \implies \alpha \in R$ .

**Lemma 27.5** (Gauss's Lemma). Let  $R$  be a UFD and  $f = f_0 + \cdots + f_m x^m, g = g_0 + \cdots + g_n x^n \in R[x]$  be primitive polynomials. Then  $fg$  is primitive.

**Proof.** We need to show that for any prime  $p$ ,  $p$  does not divide all coefficients of  $fg$ . Consider  $\bar{f} = \text{image of } f \text{ in } (R/p)[x]$  and similarly for  $\bar{g}$  where  $R/p$  is a domain. Neither  $\bar{f}$  nor  $\bar{g}$  are 0 as they are primitive so  $\bar{f}\bar{g} = \overline{fg}$  is not the zero polynomial.

**Corollary 27.6.** Let  $R$  be a UFD and  $K = K(R)$ . Let  $f \in R[x]$ , assume  $f = gh$  with  $g, h \in K[x]$ . Then  $f = \bar{g}\bar{h}$  where  $\bar{g}, \bar{h} \in R[x]$  and  $\bar{g} = \alpha g, \bar{h} = \beta h$  where  $\alpha, \beta \in K^*$ .

**Proof.** Write  $g = \gamma g', h = \delta h'$  where  $\gamma, \delta \in K^*$  and  $g', h' \in R[x]$  with both  $g', h'$  primitive. Then  $f = \gamma\delta g'h'$  then by Gauss' lemma,  $g'h'$  is primitive. So  $\gamma\delta \in R$  then take  $\bar{g} = \gamma\delta g', \bar{h} = h'$ .

**Theorem 27.7.** Let  $R$  be a UFD and  $K = K(R)$

- i) the primes in  $R[x]$  are either primes in  $R$  or primitive polynomials of positive degree that are irreducible in  $K[x]$
- ii)  $R[x]$  is a UFD.

**Corollary 27.8.** Let  $R$  be a UFD, then  $R[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  is also a UFD.



## Part III

# Field Theory

## 28 Field Extensions

**Definition 28.1** (Field Extensions). If  $F$  is a subfield of  $E$ . We say  $E$  is an extension of  $F$ , or we say that  $E/F$  is a field extension.

**Definition 28.2** (Generators of Field Extensions). Let  $E/F$  be a field extension, and let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in E$ . Denote  $F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  the subfield of  $E$  generated by  $F, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ . This is called the subfield generated by  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  over  $F$ . If  $E$  is of the form  $E = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ , we say that  $E/F$  is a finitely generated extension.

**Example 28.3.**  $\mathbb{Q}(i) \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + ib : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\} = \mathbb{Q}[i]$ . Also,  $\mathbb{Q}(\pi) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}(\pi) = \left\{ \frac{f(\pi)}{g(\pi)} : fg \in \mathbb{Q}[x], g \neq 0 \right\} \neq \mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

Let  $E/F$  be a field extension and  $\alpha \in E^\times$ . Recall the evaluation homomorphism,  $\epsilon : F[x] \rightarrow E; p \mapsto p(\alpha)$  and  $\text{Im } \epsilon = F[\alpha] \subseteq E$ .

**Theorem - Definition 28.4** (Transcendental and Algebraic). There are two possibilities:

- i)  $\ker \epsilon = 0$ . ( $\epsilon$  is injective). i.e.  $\alpha$  is not a root of any nonzero polynomial in  $F[x]$ . We say that  $\alpha$  is transcendental over  $F$ . Hence,  $F[\alpha] \cong F[x]$ .
- ii)  $\ker \epsilon \neq 0 = \langle p \rangle$  where  $p$  is monic of minimal degree. Then  $F[\alpha] \cong F[x]/\langle p \rangle$ . We say that  $\alpha$  is algebraic over  $F$  and  $p(x)$  is called the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $F$ . We say that  $E/F$  is algebraic if every  $\alpha \in E$  is algebraic over  $F$ .

**Example 28.5.** i)  $\sqrt{2} = 1.414 \dots \in \mathbb{R}$ . Minimal polynomial of  $\sqrt{2}$ :

- over  $\mathbb{Q} : x^2 - 2$
- over  $\mathbb{R} : x - \sqrt{2}$

ii) In  $\mathbb{R}(x)/\mathbb{R}$ , the element  $x$  is transcendental over  $\mathbb{R}$ .  $\epsilon : \mathbb{R}[x] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}(t); x \mapsto t$ .

iii)  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{R}$  is algebraic. Let  $z = a + ib \in \mathbb{C}$ .  $(z - a)^2 + b^2 = 0$  then  $p(x) = (x - a)^2 + b^2 = x^2 - 2ax + (a^2 + b^2) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ ,  $p(z) = 0$ .

**Proposition 28.6.** If  $\alpha \in E$  is algebraic over  $F$ , then its minimal polynomial in  $F[x]$  is irreducible.

**Proposition 28.7.** Let  $F(\alpha)$  be a simple extension.

- i) If  $\alpha$  is transcendental over  $F$ , then  $F(\alpha) \cong F(x)$  (field of rational functions in 1 variable)
- ii) If  $\alpha$  is algebraic over  $F$ , then  $F(\alpha) = F[\alpha] \cong F[x]/\langle p \rangle$  where  $p$  is the minimal polynomial.

**Proof.**

- i) Know  $F[\alpha] \cong F[x]$ , take fraction fields gives  $F(\alpha) \cong K(F[x]) \cong F(x)$ .
- ii) Know  $F[\alpha] \cong F[x]/\langle p \rangle$ .  $\langle p \rangle$  is maximal because  $p$  is irreducible hence  $F[x]/\langle p \rangle$  is a field. Therefore since  $F[\alpha]$  is already a field, so  $F(\alpha) = F[\alpha]$ .

**Example 28.8.** •  $\mathbb{Q}(i) = \mathbb{Q}[i] \cong \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle x^2 + 1 \rangle$

- Let  $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 - 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  which is irreducible. Let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $f$ . Consider  $\mathbb{Q}[\alpha] = \{r + s\alpha + t\alpha^2 : r, s, t \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ . E.g. try  $\beta = \alpha^2 + 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$ . Apply Euclidean algorithm to  $f(x)$  and  $g(x) = x^2 + 1$  which gives  $\frac{1}{5}(x-2)f(x) + \frac{1}{5}(-x^2 + x + 3)g(x) = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . Substituting  $x = \alpha$ :  $0 + \frac{1}{5}(-\alpha^2 + \alpha + 3)\beta = 1$ . So  $\beta^{-1} = \frac{1}{5}(-\alpha^2 + \alpha + 3) \in \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$ . This kind of calculation shows that  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) = \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$ . i.e.  $\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$  is a field.

**Definition 28.9** (Degree). Let  $E/F$  be a field extension. Then  $E$  is a vector space over  $F$ . The degree of  $E/F$  is  $[E : F] = \dim_F E$ . We say  $E/F$  is a finite extension if  $[E : F] < \infty$ .

**Example 28.10.**  $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R}] = 2$ ,  $[\mathbb{R} : \mathbb{Q}] = \text{uncountable } \infty$ .

**Proposition 28.11.** Any finite extension is algebraic.

**Proof.** Let  $E/F$  be finite, say  $\dim n \geq 1$ . Let  $\alpha \in E$ . Then  $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^n$  must be linearly dependent over  $F$ . i.e. there exists  $c_0, \dots, c_n \in F$  not all 0 such that  $c_0 + c_1\alpha + \dots + c_n\alpha^n = 0$ . i.e.  $p(\alpha) = 0$  where  $p(x) = c_0 + c_1x + \dots + c_nx^n \in F[x]$ . So  $\alpha$  is algebraic over  $F$ .

**Theorem 28.12** (The Tower Law). Let  $K/E$  and  $E/F$  be finite. Then  $K/F$  is finite and  $[K : F] = [K : E][E : F]$ .

**Proposition 28.13.** Suppose  $\alpha \in E$  is algebraic over  $F$ . Then  $[F(\alpha) : F] = \deg p$  where  $p$  is a minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $F$ .

**Example 28.14.**  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/4})$ . What is  $[\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/4}) : \mathbb{Q}]$ ?

- $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$  because minimal polynomial of  $\sqrt{2}/\mathbb{Q}$  is  $x^2 - 2$  has degree 2.
- $[\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/4}) : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})] = 2$  because minimal polynomial of  $2^{1/4}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  is  $x^2 - \sqrt{2}$ .

Then by the tower law,  $[\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/4}) : \mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/4}) : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})][\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$ .

**Theorem 28.15** (Eisenstein's Criterion). Let  $R$  be a UFD,  $K = K(R)$ . Let  $f = f_0 + f_1x + \dots + f_nx^n \in R[x]$ . Suppose there exists a prime  $p \in R$  such that  $p \mid f_0, \dots, p \mid f_{n-1}$  but  $p \nmid f_n$  and  $p^2 \nmid f_0$ . Then  $f$  is irreducible in  $K[x]$ .

**Theorem 28.16** (Splitting Fields). Let  $F$  be a field,  $f \in F[x]$ ,  $f \neq 0$ . Then there exists a field extension  $E/F$  such that  $f(x)$  is a product of linear factors in  $E[x]$ , i.e.  $f(x) = c(x - \alpha_1) \cdots (x - \alpha_n)$  for  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in E$ . The subfield  $F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  generated by  $F$  and the  $\alpha$ 's is called a splitting field for  $f(x)$  over  $F$ .

**Proof.** Induction on  $n = \deg f$ . For  $n = 1$ , just take  $E = F$ . Suppose  $n > 1$ , let  $p \in F[x]$  be an irreducible factor of  $f$ . Let  $K = F[x]/\langle p \rangle$ . Then  $K$  is a field (since  $p$  is irreducible),  $K$  contains a root of  $p$  namely  $\alpha = x + \langle p \rangle \in K$ . Also  $F$  is a subfield of  $K$ . In  $K[x]$  we have  $f(x) = (x - \alpha)g(x)$  for  $g \in K[x]$ ,  $\deg g < \deg f$ . By induction, there is an extension  $E$  of  $K$  such that  $g$  factors into linear

factors in  $E[x]$ . So does  $f$ .

**Example 28.17.** Splitting field of  $x^3 - 2$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

We already know in  $\mathbb{C}$ :  $x^3 - 2 = (x - 2^{1/3})(x - 2^{1/3}\omega)(x - 2^{1/3}\omega^2)$  where  $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$  so splitting field is  $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3}, \omega)$ .

$x^3 - 2$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$  by Eisenstein's Criterion. Let  $K = \mathbb{Q}[x]/\langle x^3 - 2 \rangle$  and  $\alpha = x + \langle x^3 - 2 \rangle \in K$ . So  $\alpha^3 = (x + \langle x^3 - 2 \rangle)^3 = x^3 + \langle x^3 - 2 \rangle = x^3 - 2 + 2 + \langle x^3 - 2 \rangle = 2 + \langle x^3 - 2 \rangle = 2$ . Then  $x^3 - 2 = (x - \alpha)(x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2)$  in  $K[x]$ .

**Q:** is  $x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2$  irreducible in  $K[x]$ .

**Proof.** Suppose not. Say  $\beta$  is a root in  $K$ . i.e.  $\beta^2 + \alpha\beta + \alpha^2 = 0$ . Let  $\omega = \beta/\alpha$ . Then  $\omega^2 + \omega + 1 = 0$ , but  $x^2 + x + 1$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Thus  $[\mathbb{Q}(\omega) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$  but  $\omega \in K$  and  $[K : \mathbb{Q}] = 3 (= \deg(x^3 - 2))$  but this is a contradiction by the Tower Law,  $[K : \mathbb{Q}] = [K : \mathbb{Q}(\omega)][\mathbb{Q}(\omega) : \mathbb{Q}]$ .

Now define  $E = K[x]/\langle x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2 \rangle$ , then  $E$  is a field. Let  $\beta = x + \langle x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2 \rangle$ . so  $\beta \in E$  is a root of  $x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2$  get  $x^3 - 2 = (x - \alpha)(x - \beta)(x - \alpha^2/\beta) = (x - \alpha)(x - \omega)(x - \omega^2\alpha)$  with  $\omega = \beta/\alpha$ .

**Proposition - Definition 28.18** (Algebraically Closed). A field  $F$  is algebraically closed if one of the following equivalent conditions hold:

- i) Any non-constant  $p \in F[x]$  has a root in  $F$ .
- ii) There are no non-trivial algebraic extensions of  $F$ .

**Theorem 28.19.** Let  $F$  be a field. There exists a “smallest” extension  $\tilde{F}/F$  which is algebraically closed, called the algebraic closure of  $F$ . It is unique up to isomorphism.

## 29 Finite Fields

**Definition 29.1** (Characteristic of a Ring). Let  $R$  be a ring. Consider the homomorphism  $\phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R; n \mapsto 1 + 1 + \dots + 1$  ( $n$  times). Then  $\ker \phi \trianglelefteq \mathbb{Z} = \langle n \rangle$  for some  $n$ . This is called the characteristic of  $R$ ,  $\text{char } R$ .

**Example 29.2.**  $\text{char } \mathbb{R} = 0, \text{char } \mathbb{Z} = 0, \text{char}(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) = n$ .

**Definition 29.3.** A finite field is a field with only finitely many elements.

**Example 29.4.**  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  if  $p$  is prime is a finite field.

**Proposition 29.5.** Let  $F$  be a finite field. Then  $|F| = p^n$  for some prime  $p$ , integer  $n \geq 1$ .  $p$  is the characteristic of  $F$ .  $F$  contains  $\mathbb{Z}/a/b\mathbb{Z}$  as a subfield.

**Proof.** Let  $n = \text{char } F$ . Since  $F$  finite,  $n \neq 0$ .

**Claim.**  $n$  is prime.

**Proof.** If  $n = n_1 n_2$  then  $0 = \phi(n) = \phi(n_1)\phi(n_2)$ . Since  $F$  is a field, either  $\phi(n_1) = 0$  or  $\phi(n_2) = 0$ .

Call  $p = n$ .  $\text{Im}(\phi) = \{0, 1, 1+1, \dots, p-1\}$ . By First Isomorphism Theorem,  $\text{Im } \phi \cong \mathbb{Z} / \ker \phi = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ . i.e.  $F$  contains  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  as a subfield. Also  $F$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  of finite dimension say  $t$ , so  $|F| = p^t$ , i.e. can write elements uniquely in form  $c_1b_1 + \dots + c_nb_n$  where  $c_i \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  and  $b_i$  forms a basis for  $F$  over  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Theorem 29.6** (Existence of Finite Fields). Let  $p \geq 2$  be a prime, let  $n \geq 1$ . Then there exists a field  $F$  with  $|F| = p^n$ .

**Proof.** Let  $q = p^n$ . Let  $g(x) = x^q - x \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$ . From the previous chapter, there exists a field extension  $E/\mathbb{F}_p$  such that  $g(x)$  splits into linear factors in  $E[x]$ . Define  $F = \{\alpha \in E : g(\alpha) = 0\} = \{\alpha \in E : \alpha^q = \alpha\}$ . Know  $|F| \leq q$ , since  $g(x)$  has at most  $q$  roots.

**Claim.**  $g(x)$  has no repeated roots.

**Proof.** If  $g(x) = (x - \alpha)^2 h(x)$  for some  $\alpha \in E, h \in E[x]$ . Then  $g'(x) = 2(x - \alpha)h(x) + (x - \alpha)^2 h'(x)$ . So  $g'(\alpha) = 0$ . But  $g'(x) = qx^{q-1} - 1 = -1$ , contradiction.

Therefore  $|F| = q$ . Need to show  $F$  is a subfield of  $E$ . If  $\alpha, \beta \in F$  then  $(\alpha\beta)^q = \alpha^q\beta^q = \alpha\beta$  so  $\alpha\beta \in F$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha + \beta)^p &= \alpha^p + \beta^p \\ (\alpha + \beta)^{p^2} &= \alpha^{p^2} + \beta^{p^2} \\ &\vdots \\ (\alpha + \beta)^q &= \alpha^q + \beta^q = \alpha + \beta \end{aligned}$$

so  $\alpha + \beta \in F$  and closed under addition and multiplication. Inverses  $\alpha^{-1} = \alpha^{q-2}$  because  $\alpha^{q-1} = 1$  if  $\alpha \neq 0$ .

**Theorem 29.7** (Existence of Generators). Let  $F$  = finite field order  $q = p^n$ . Then  $F^*$  is cyclic of order  $q - 1$ .

**Example 29.8.**  $\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2(\alpha)$  with  $\alpha^2 + \alpha + 1 = 0$ . We have  $\alpha^0 = 1, \alpha^1 = \alpha, \alpha^2 = \alpha + 1$  so  $\mathbb{F}_4^* = \langle \alpha \rangle$ .

**Lemma 29.9.** Let  $m \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$  be irreducible with  $\deg n \geq 1$ . Let  $q = p^n$  then  $m \mid x^q - x$ .

**Theorem 29.10.** Let  $F, F'$  be finite fields.  $|F| = |F'|$  then  $F \cong F'$ .

## 30 Ruler and Compass Constructions

**Definition 30.1** (Admissible Towers). Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}(S_0) = \mathbb{Q}(\text{all } x, y \text{ coordinates of points in } S_0)$  ( $= \mathbb{Q}$  for some  $S_0$ ). An admissible tower is a tower of extensions:  $F = E_0 \subseteq E_1 \subseteq E_2 \subseteq \dots \subseteq E_n$  where  $E_j \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ ,  $[E_j : E_{j-1}] = 2$  for all  $j$ .

**Theorem 30.2.** Let  $(x, y) \in S_i$ . Then there exists an admissible tower  $E_0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq E_n$  such that  $x, y \in E_n$ .

**Lemma 30.3.** If  $F_0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq F_n$  and  $E_0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq E_n$  are admissible then there exists admissible  $K_0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq K_r$  such that  $F_n \subseteq K_r$  and  $E_m \subseteq K_r$ .

**Corollary 30.4.** Let  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  be constructible from  $S_0$ . Then  $[F(x, y) : F] = 2^k$  for some  $k$ .