

Math 55a Review part 2 - Group theory

(1)

- Lec. 1 • A group (G, \circ) is a set with an operation $\circ : G \times G \rightarrow G$ st. (1) $\exists e \in G$ identity s.t. $eg = ge = g \forall g \in G$,
 Artin ch. 2 (2) $\forall g \in G \exists$ inverse $g^{-1} \in G$ st. $gg^{-1} = g^{-1}g = e$, (3) associativity $(ab)c = a(bc) \forall a, b, c \in G$.

- A group is abelian if \circ is commutative ($ab = ba \forall a, b \in G$)

- Ex: $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$, $(\mathbb{Z}/n, +)$, (\mathbb{C}^*, \cdot) , symmetric group S_n ; $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ etc.; products $G \times H$, \mathbb{Z}^n , ...

- Lec. 2 • like sets, groups can be finite $(\mathbb{Z}/n, S_n, \dots)$, countable $(\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}^n, \mathbb{Q}, \dots)$, uncountable (\mathbb{R}, \dots)
- $H \subset G$ is a subgroup if $e \in H$, $a \in H \Rightarrow a^{-1} \in H$, $a, b \in H \Rightarrow ab \in H$. $|H|$ divides $|G|$.
 H, H' subgroups of $G \Rightarrow H \cap H'$ is a subgroup of G .
 All subgroups of $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$ are $\mathbb{Z}n = \{mn / m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ for some $n \geq 0$.

- A homomorphism $\varphi: G \rightarrow H$ is a map st. $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b) \forall a, b \in G$. ($\Rightarrow \varphi(a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)^{-1}$)
 isomorphism = bijective homomorphism, automorphism = isom. $G \cong G$. $(\text{Aut}(G), \circ)$ is a group.
- The kernel of $\varphi: G \rightarrow H$: $\ker(\varphi) = \{g \in G / \varphi(g) = e_H\}$ subgroup of G . φ injective $\Leftrightarrow \ker \varphi = \{e\}$
 The image of φ : $\text{Im}(\varphi) = \{\varphi(g) / g \in G\} \subset H$ subgroup of H . φ surjective $\Leftrightarrow \text{Im } \varphi = H$.
- Given $a \in G$, $\varphi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G$ defined by $k \mapsto a^k$ is a homomorphism with $\text{im}(\varphi) = \langle a \rangle$ subgp generated by a .
 $\ker(\varphi) = \mathbb{Z}_n$ where $n = \text{order of } a = \min \{n > 0 \text{ st. } a^n = e\}$.
 Hence the cyclic group $\langle a \rangle$ is $\cong \mathbb{Z}/n$ if a has order n , $\cong \mathbb{Z}$ if infinite order.
 (a_1, \dots, a_k) generate G if every element of G is a product of a_i and their inverses).

- A subgroup $H \subset G$ determines an equivalence relation (axioms: $a \sim a$; $a \sim b \Leftrightarrow b \sim a$; \sim is transitive)
 $a \sim b$ iff $a^{-1}b \in H$, whose equivalence classes are the (left) cosets $aH = \{ah / h \in H\}$.

The quotient set: $G/H = \{\text{cosets } aH\}$. The index of H : $(G:H) = |G/H| = \frac{|G|}{|H|}$ if finite.

- Lec. 4 • If G is finite: $H \subset G$ subgroup $\Rightarrow |H|$ divides $|G|$; $a \in G \Rightarrow \text{ord}(a) | |G|$; $|G| = p$ prime $\Rightarrow G \cong \mathbb{Z}/p$.
- A subgroup $H \subset G$ is normal $\Leftrightarrow aH = Ha \quad \forall a \in G \Leftrightarrow aHa^{-1} = H \quad \forall a \in G$.
 (left cosets = right cosets) (conjugate subgroups)

- The operation $(aH)(bH) = abH$ makes G/H a group iff H is a normal subgroup.
- $\forall \varphi: G \rightarrow H$ homomorphism, $\ker(\varphi) = K$ is a normal subgroup of G , and $\text{Im}(\varphi) \cong G/K$.
 If φ is surjective, we have an exact sequence $\{1\} \rightarrow K \xrightarrow{i} G \xrightarrow{\varphi} H \rightarrow \{1\}$ $\text{Im}(i) = \ker(\varphi)$.
 $\text{Ex: } \{1\} \rightarrow H \subset G \rightarrow G/H \rightarrow \{1\}; 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/mn \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n \rightarrow 0 \quad (\mathbb{Z}/mn \cong \mathbb{Z}/m \times \mathbb{Z}/n \text{ iff } \text{gcd}(m, n) = 1)$
 $\{e\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/3 \rightarrow S_3 \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow \{e\}$

A homomorphism $G \xrightarrow{\varphi} H$ factors through $G \rightarrow G/K \xrightarrow{\bar{\varphi}} H$ iff $K \subset \ker \varphi$

- G is simple if its only normal subgroups are $\{e\}$ and itself. Ex: \mathbb{Z}/p p prime; A_n , $n \geq 5$.
- Ex: the center $Z(G) = \{z \in G / zg = gz \forall g \in G\}$ is a normal subgroup (abelian: $zz' = z'z$)
- Ex: the commutator subgroup $[G, G] = \bigcap_{\text{finite}} [a_i, b_i]$, where $[a, b] = aba^{-1}b^{-1}$, is normal, and
 $G/[G, G] = \text{Ab}(G)$ (abelianization) largest abelian quotient of G . $\forall G \xrightarrow{\varphi} H$, H abelian
 factors $G \rightarrow \text{Ab}(G) \xrightarrow{\bar{\varphi}} H$.

- Lec. 20 • Every finitely generated abelian group is $\cong \mathbb{Z}^r \times \mathbb{Z}/n_1 \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}/n_k$ for some r, n_1, \dots, n_k .

Artin 14.7

- Group actions: G -action on set S : $G \times S \rightarrow S$ st. $e \cdot s = s \quad \forall s \in S$ (\Leftrightarrow homom. $\rho: G \rightarrow \text{Perm}(S)$) (2)
 $(g, s) \mapsto g \cdot s$ $(gh) \cdot s = g \cdot (h \cdot s)$
faithful if ρ injective; transitive if $\forall s, t \in S \exists g \in G$ st. $g \cdot s = t$ (ie: 1 orbit)

- Lec. 21
- The orbit of $s \in S$ is $O_s = G \cdot s = \{g \cdot s \mid g \in G\}$. These form a partition $S = \sqcup$ orbits.
 - The stabilizer of s is $\text{Stab}(s) = \{g \in G \mid g \cdot s = s\}$ subgroup of G .
 - Elements in same orbit have conjugate stabilizer subgroups $\text{Stab}(g \cdot s) = g \text{Stab}(s) g^{-1} \subset G$.
 - Orbit-stabilizer: if $H = \text{Stab}(s)$, then $G/H \cong O_s$ bijection, in particular $|O_s| \cdot |\text{Stab}(s)| = |G|$.
 $gH \mapsto g \cdot s$
 - Burnside's lemma (G, S finite): let $S^g = \{s \in S \mid g \cdot s = s\}$ fixed points of $g \in G$, then #orbits = $\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |S^g|$

- Artin ch. 7
- G acts on itself by left multiplication. This gives $G \hookrightarrow \text{Perm}(G)$, hence:
every finite group G is isomorphic to a subgroup of S_n , $n = |G|$.
 - G acts on itself by conjugation: g acts by $h \mapsto ghg^{-1}$.
orbits = conjugacy classes; $\text{Stab}(h) = \{g \in G \mid gh = hg\} = Z(h)$ centralizer of h .
Hence. $|G| = \sum_{\text{conj. classes}} |C_h|$, where for each conj. class $|C_h| = \frac{|G|}{|\text{Z}(h)|}$ divides $|G|$. (class eqn of G)
 - For p -groups ($|G| = p^k$), the class equation $\Rightarrow |Z(G)| \geq p$ (number of conj. classes of size 1)
Hence $\therefore |G| = p^2$, p prime $\Rightarrow G$ is abelian ($\cong \mathbb{Z}/p \times \mathbb{Z}/p$ or \mathbb{Z}/p^2)
• 5 isom. classes of groups of order 8: $\mathbb{Z}/8$, $\mathbb{Z}/4 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$, $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^3$, D_4 , quaternion group.

- Lec. 22:
- $G \subset SO(3)$ finite subgp \Rightarrow by considering the action of G on its poles (unit vectors along rotation axes),
 $G \cong$ one of \mathbb{Z}/n , D_n (regular n -gon), A_4 (tetrahedron), S_4 (cube), A_5 (dodecahedron/icosahedron)

- Lec. 23:
- The symmetric group S_n is generated by transpositions (ij) , in fact by $s_i = (i \ i+1)$.
 - $\forall \sigma \in S_n \ \exists$ unique decomp of σ as product of disjoint cycles $(a_1 \dots a_{k_1})$.
 $\sigma, \tau \in S_n$ are in same conjugacy class iff they have the same cycle lengths.
 - the alternating group $A_n = \ker(\text{sign}: S_n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2) = \{\text{products of even # of transpositions}\}$
- Lec. 24:
- A conjugacy class in S_n which consists of even permutations is either 1 or 2 conj. classes in A_n ;
it splits into 2 iff the centralizer $Z(\sigma) \subset A_n$ (\Leftrightarrow cycle lengths of σ are all odd & distinct).
 - A_n is simple for $n \geq 5$ (A_4 isn't: $\{\text{id}, (ij)(kl)\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$ is normal in A_4 and S_4).

- Lec. 25:
- Sylow theorems: $|G| = p^e m$, $p \nmid m \Rightarrow$ a Sylow p -subgroup of G is a subgp. of order p^e .
 - Thm 1: $\forall p$ prime $|G|$, G contains a Sylow p -subgroup. (\rightarrow consequence: G contains an elt of order p)
 - Thm 2: all Sylow p -subgroups of G are conjugates of each other, and every subgroup of order p^k ($k \leq e$) is contained in a Sylow subgroup.
 - Thm 3: the number s_p of Sylow p -subgroups satisfies $s_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ and $s_p \mid m = \frac{|G|}{p^e}$.
 - If G contains subgroups N, H st. $N \cap H = \{e\}$ (eg because $\gcd(|N|, |H|) = 1$) and $|G| = |N| \cdot |H|$, then $\forall g \in G \ \exists$ unique $n \in N$, $h \in H$ st. $g = nh$.
 - If N and H are both normal in G then $G \cong N \times H$. If N is normal but not H , we have a semidirect product $N \rtimes_{\varphi} H$, $\varphi: H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(N)$ given by conjugation inside G .
 $(n, h) \cdot (n', h') = (n \varphi(h)(n'), hh')$

- Lec. 26
- Given $H \subset G$ (eg. p -Sylow), the number of conjugate subgroups $gHg^{-1} \subset G$ (eg. all p -Sylows) equals $|G/N(H)|$, $N(H)$ normalizer $= \{g \in G \mid gHg^{-1} = H\}$ (largest subgp of G st. H is normal inside N).
 - Example: $|G|=15 \Rightarrow$ Sylow subgroups of order 3 and 5 are normal ($s_3 = s_5 = 1 \Rightarrow G = \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_5$).
 $|G|=21 \Rightarrow s_3 \in \{1, 7\}$, $s_7 = 1$, so either $G = \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_7$ or semidirect prod $\mathbb{Z}_7 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_3$.
 $|G|=12 \Rightarrow$ 1 or 3 2-Sylows, one of these is normal \Rightarrow 5 iron-clad classes:
 1 or 4 3-Sylows $\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, (\mathbb{Z}/2)^2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3, A_4, D_6, \mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$.

- Lec. 27
- The free group $F_n = \langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle = \{\text{all reduced words } a_1^{m_1} \dots a_n^{m_k}\}$ (words in $a_i^{\pm 1}$ never simplify except $a_i a_i^{-1} = a_i^{-1} a_i = 1$)
 - Any group G with n generators g_1, \dots, g_n is a quotient of F_n , via $\varphi: F_n \xrightarrow{\sim} G$ $a_i \mapsto g_i$: G is finitely presented if $\text{Ker}(\varphi)$ is generated by a finite set r_1, \dots, r_k & their conjugates. Write $G \cong \langle g_1, \dots, g_n \mid r_1, \dots, r_k \rangle = F_n / \langle \text{normal subgp gen'd by conjugates of } r_j \rangle$.
 - The Cayley graph of G w/ generators g_i : vertices = elements of G ; edges: connect g to $g \cdot g_i \quad \forall g \in G, \forall g_i$.
 - A normal form for elements of $G = \langle g_1, \dots, g_n \mid r_1, \dots, r_k \rangle$ is a set of words in $g_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, g_n^{\pm 1}$ st. every element of G appears exactly once among these.

- Lec. 28
- Ex: $S_n \cong \langle \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_{n-1} \mid \sigma_i^2 = 1, \sigma_i \sigma_j = \sigma_j \sigma_i \quad |i-j| \geq 2, \sigma_i \sigma_j \sigma_i = \sigma_j, \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i = \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \rangle$.
 $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is gen'd by $S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}) = SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) / \{\pm I\} = \langle S, T \mid S^2, (ST)^3 \rangle$

- Lec. 29
- A representation of G is a vector space V on which G acts by linear operators; i.e. $\rho: G \rightarrow GL(V)$.
 - Artin ch. 10: A subrepresentation is a subspace $W \subset V$ invariant under G : $g(w) = w \quad \forall g \in G$. Fulton-Harris ch. 1-2: V is irreducible if has no nontrivial subrepresentations.
 - G finite, V finite dim./ \mathbb{C} : each $g: V \rightarrow V$ has finite order, $g^n = \text{Id} \Rightarrow$ diagonalizable, $\lambda_j = e^{\frac{2\pi i k}{n}}$
 - if G is abelian, all operators $g: V \rightarrow V$ are simultaneously diagonalizable \Rightarrow irreduc. rep's are 1-dim!. These correspond to elements of the dual group $\widehat{G} = \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^*)$. (Note $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}/m}$ is $\cong \mathbb{Z}/m$)
 - a homomorphism of representations is a G -equivariant linear map, i.e. $\varphi(gv) = g\varphi(v)$.
 - V, W rep's of $G \Rightarrow$ so are $V \oplus W, V \otimes W$ ($g: v \otimes w \mapsto gv \otimes gw$), V^* ($l \mapsto l \circ g^{-1}$), $V^* \otimes W \cong \text{Hom}(V, W)$ ($\varphi \mapsto g \circ \varphi \circ g^{-1}$). ($\text{Hom}_G(V, W) = \text{invariant part } \text{Hom}(V, W)^G$)

- Lec. 30
- Any \mathbb{C} -representation of a finite group G admits an invariant Hermitian inner product, with respect to which G acts by unitary operators.
 - V rep. of a finite group (over \mathbb{C}), $W \subset V$ invariant subspace $\Rightarrow \exists U \subset V$ invariant st. $V = U \oplus W$. Hence: any \mathbb{C} -representation of a finite group decomposes into a direct sum of irreducibles.
 - Schur's lemma: V, W irred. rep's of $G \Rightarrow$ any homom. $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_G(V, W)$ is either zero or an isomorphism; and all iso's of an irred. rep. are multiples of id: $\text{Hom}_G(V, V) = \mathbb{C} \cdot \text{id}_V$.
 - Ex: rep's. of S_n : trivial rep $U = \mathbb{C}$, σ acts by id; alternating rep: $U' = \mathbb{C}$, σ acts by $(-1)^\sigma$. standard rep. (dim. $n-1$): $V = \{(z_1, \dots, z_n) \mid \sum z_i = 0\} \subset \mathbb{C}^n$, σ acts by permuting coords: $e_i \mapsto e_{\sigma(i)}$. U, U', V are the only irred. rep's of S_3 .

- Lec. 31 :
- The key tool to study representations is the character $\chi_V: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $\chi_V(g) = \text{tr}(g: V \rightarrow V)$ (In terms of eigenvalues, $\text{tr}(g) = \sum \lambda_i$, and $\text{tr}(g^k) = \sum \lambda_i^k$, so χ_V recovers all symmetric polynomial expressions in the λ_i , hence the λ_i as unordered tuple).
 - $\chi_V: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a class function, ie. $\chi_V(hgh^{-1}) = \chi_V(g)$.
 - $\chi_{V \oplus W} = \chi_V + \chi_W$, $\chi_{V \otimes W} = \chi_V \chi_W$, $\chi_{V^*} = \overline{\chi_V}$, $\chi_{\text{Hom}(V, W)} = \overline{\chi_V} \chi_W$.
 - for a permutation rep. (G acting on $S \rightsquigarrow G$ acts on V with basis $(e_s)_{s \in S}$, $g \cdot e_s = e_{g \cdot s}$)
 $\chi(g) = \#\{s \in S / g \cdot s = s\} = |S^g|$.

- Lec. 32
- Character table of G = list, for each irred. rep. V_i , the value of χ_{V_i} on each conjugacy class.
 - $\varphi = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} g: V \rightarrow V$ projection onto $V^G = \{v \in V / gv = v \forall g\}$, so $\dim(V^G) = \text{tr}(\varphi) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_g \chi_{V_i}(g)$
 - $H(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \overline{\alpha(g)} \beta(g)$ Hermitian inner product on $\mathbb{C}_{\text{Class}}(G) = \{\text{class functions } G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$
 Then $\dim \text{Hom}_G(V, W) = H(\chi_V, \chi_W)$.
 - The characters of the irreducible reps of G are an orthonormal basis of $(\mathbb{C}_{\text{Class}}(G), H)$. In particular the number of irred. reps = number of conjugacy classes
 - The multiplicities a_i in the decomposition of a G -rep. W into irreducibles $W \cong \bigoplus_i V_i^{\otimes a_i}$ are given by $a_i = \dim \text{Hom}_G(V_i, W) = H(\chi_{V_i}, \chi_W)$. Moreover, $H(\chi_V, \chi_W) = \sum a_i^2$.
 - The regular rep. of G (=permutation rep. for G acting on itself by left multiplication) contains each irred. rep. V_i with multiplicity $= \dim V_i$; therefore $|G| = \sum_i (\dim V_i)^2$.

- Lec-33-34
- These results allow us to find character tables of various groups (eg. S_4, A_4, S_5, A_5) by starting from known representations, considering tensor products, and using $H(\cdot, \cdot)$ pairings and orthogonality to find irreducible pieces & the missing irreducible reps.