

Chapter 4: Cyclic Groups.

Def: A Group G is cyclic iff $\exists a \in G$, $G = \{a^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and we write $G = \langle a \rangle$, a is called a generator for G .

ex1: $(\mathbb{Z}, +) = \langle 1 \rangle = \{ \dots, 1^{-2}, 1^{-1}, 1^0, 1^1, 1^2, 1^3, \dots \}$
 $= \{ \dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \}$

Also $(\mathbb{Z}, +) = \langle -1 \rangle$.

RMK: if $a \in G$ is a generator then a^{-1} is also a generator.

ex2: $\mathbb{Z}_6 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} = \langle 1 \rangle = \langle 5 \rangle$

$\mathbb{Z}_{10} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 9\} = \langle 1 \rangle = \langle 9 \rangle = \langle 3 \rangle = \langle 7 \rangle$

$\langle 7 \rangle = \{0, 7, 4, 1, 8, 5, 2, 9, 6, 3\}$ generator (\mathbb{Z}_{10} is cyclic)

$\langle 5 \rangle = \{0, 5\}$ cyclic subgroup of \mathbb{Z}_{10}

not generator $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle 4 \rangle = \{0, 4, 8, 2, 6\} \end{array} \right.$

ex3: $\mathbb{Z}_{12} = \langle 1 \rangle = \langle 11 \rangle = \langle 5 \rangle = \langle 7 \rangle$

ex4: $(U(10), \otimes_{10}) = \{1, 3, 7, 9\}$

$\langle 3 \rangle$ and $\langle 7 \rangle$ generator for $U(10)$

$\langle 9 \rangle$ not generator for $U(10)$

$\langle 3 \rangle = \{1, 3, 9, 7\} = \langle 7 \rangle = U(10)$

$\langle 9 \rangle = \{1, 9\} \neq U(10)$

$\langle 1 \rangle = \{1\} \neq U(10)$

\otimes_{10}	1	3	7	9
1	1	3	7	9
3	3	9	1	7
7	7	1	9	3
9	9	7	3	1

Thm 4.1 (criterion for $a^i = a^j$)

Let G be a group and let a belong to G . If a has infinite order then $a^i = a^j$ iff $i = j$.

If a has finite order, say, n , then $\langle a \rangle = \{e, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$ and $a^i = a^j$ iff n divides $i - j$.

$G = (\mathbb{R}, +)$ is not cyclic, $a = 2$, $|2| = \infty$

$G = (\mathbb{R}^*, \cdot)$ is not cyclic, $b = 5$, $|5| = \infty$

proof Thm:

$$\text{suppose } a^m = a^n \Rightarrow \frac{a^m}{a^n} = e \Rightarrow a^{m-n} = e$$

$$\Rightarrow m - n = 0 \quad \text{since } |a| = \infty$$

$$\Rightarrow m = n$$

$$\Leftarrow \text{if } |a| = n \text{ s.t. } a^i = a^j \Rightarrow a^{i-j} = e$$

$$i - j = nq + r$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow a^{i-j} &= a^{nq+r} = \underbrace{(a^n)^q}_{= e} a^r && 0 \leq r < n \\ &= e (a)^r \\ &= (a)^r = e \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } r = 0 \Rightarrow n \text{ divides } i - j.$$

exp: $|a| = 5$, $\langle a \rangle = ?$

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

$$a^5, a^6, a^7, a^8, a^9$$

$$a^4 = a^9$$

$$a^5 = a^{10} = e$$

$$a^3 = a^8$$

$$a^2 = a^7$$

$$a^1 = a^6$$

$$\rightarrow |a| = 5 \mid 9-4$$

divides

$$|a| = 5 \mid 8-3$$

$$|a| = 5 \mid 7-2$$

$$|a| = 5 \mid 6-1$$

Corollary 1: For any group element a , $|a| = |\langle a \rangle|$.

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Corollary 2: Let G be a group and let a be an element of order n in G .

If $a^k = e$ then n divides k .

Thm 4.2: Let a be an element of order n in a group and let k be a positive integer. Then $\langle a^k \rangle = \langle a^{\gcd(n,k)} \rangle$ and $|a^k| = n / \gcd(n,k)$.

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$$G = \mathbb{Z}_{12} , a = 2 , |a| = 6 , k = 3$$

$$\rightarrow \langle a^k \rangle = \langle 2^3 \rangle = \langle 6 \rangle = \{0, 12\}$$

$$= 2^{\gcd(6,3)} = 2^3 = \langle 6 \rangle = \{0, 6\}$$

$$|6| = \frac{6}{\gcd(6,3)} = \frac{6}{3} = 2$$

cyclic

Corollary 1: orders of elements in finite group

If a finite cyclic group, the order of an element divides the order of the group.

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exp: If G cyclic, $|G|=24$

If $|G|=18$, $G=\langle a \rangle$, $b \in G \rightarrow |b|=1, 9, 18$ $a \in G \rightarrow |a|=1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24$

Corollary 2: Criterion for $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ and $|a^i| = |a^j|$

Let $|a|=n$, Then $\langle a^i \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ iff $\text{gcd}(n, i) = \text{gcd}(n, j)$ and

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$|a^i| = |a^j|$ iff $\text{gcd}(n, i) = \text{gcd}(n, j)$.

exp $|a|=12 \Rightarrow |a^3| = |a^9| = \frac{12}{3} = 4$ By Thm 4.2

$|a^5| = |a^7| = |a^{11}| = \frac{12}{(12,5)} = \frac{12}{1} = 12$ By Thm 4.2

* If $|G| = \langle a \rangle$ of order 24

generators of G are $a, a^5, a^7, a^{11}, a^{13}, a^{17}, a^{19}, a^{23}$

$|a^5| = \frac{24}{\text{g.c.d}(5,24)} = \frac{24}{1} = 24$

$|a^6| = \frac{24}{\text{g.c.d}(6,24)} = \frac{24}{6} = 4 \rightarrow \langle a^6 \rangle = \{e, a^6, a^{12}, a^{18}\}$

$|a^{15}| = \frac{24}{\text{g.c.d}(12,15)} = \frac{24}{3} = 8 \rightarrow \langle a^{15} \rangle = \{e, a^{15}, a^6, a^{21}, a^{12}, a^3, a^{18}, a^9\}$

Corollary 3: Generators of Finite Cyclic Groups.

Let $|a| = n$. Then $\langle a \rangle = \langle a^j \rangle$ iff $\gcd(n, j) = 1$ and $|a| = |\langle a^j \rangle|$.

iff $\gcd(n, j) = 1$. $a^j = \frac{n}{\gcd(n, j)}$

Corollary 4: Generators of \mathbb{Z}_n :

An integer k in \mathbb{Z}_n is a generator of \mathbb{Z}_n iff $\gcd(n, k) = 1$.

$\langle 1 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_n$, $|1| = n$, $1^k = k$ is a generator iff $\frac{n}{\gcd(n, k)} = \frac{n}{1} = n$

* Find all generators of \mathbb{Z}_{12} : 1, 5, 7, 11

* $\phi(12)$

of cyclic subgroup 2

$\mathbb{Z}_{12} \rightarrow$ Find $\langle 2 \rangle = \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10\} \rightarrow$ cyclic subgroup of $\mathbb{Z}_{12} \rightarrow$ generator $= \{a^1, a^5\}$

$\langle 5 \rangle = \{0, 5, 10, 3, 8, 1, 6, 11, 4, 9, 2, 7\}$

$= \{2, 10\}$

* consider $G = \mathbb{Z}_{24}$

1. Find all other generators: 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23

2. Find the cyclic subgroup generated by 3: $\{0, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21\}$, $|\langle 3 \rangle| = 8$

3. Find $|\langle 3^2 \rangle| = |6| = \frac{8}{\gcd(2, 8)} = \frac{8}{2} = 4 \rightarrow \langle 3^2 \rangle = \langle 6 \rangle = \{0, 6, 12, 18\}$

\rightarrow other generators = $3, 3^3, 3^5, 3^7 = 3, 9, 15, 21$.

Classification of subgroups of cyclic groups.

The next theorem tells us how many subgroups a finite cyclic group has and how to find them.

Thm 4.3: Fundamental Theorem of cyclic groups.

* Every subgroup of a cyclic group is cyclic. Moreover, if $|\langle a \rangle| = n$ then

The order of any subgroup of $\langle a \rangle$ is a divisor of n , and for each positive divisor k of n , the group $\langle a \rangle$ has exactly one subgroup of order k - namely, $\langle a^{n/k} \rangle$

Proof * : let $G = \langle a \rangle$, let $H \leq G \Rightarrow$ either $H = \{e\}$ then $H = \langle e \rangle$

OR $H \neq \{e\} \rightarrow H = \{e, b, c, \dots\}$
 $\downarrow \quad \downarrow$
 $a^s \quad a^t$

let s be the smallest s.t. $b = a^s \in H$ then $H = \langle b \rangle$

then if $c = a^k \in H \Rightarrow k = sq + r$

$$\Rightarrow a^k = c = (a^s)^q \cdot a^r \quad 0 \leq r < s$$

$$\underbrace{a^k}_{\in H} \cdot \underbrace{(a^s)^{-q}}_{\in H} = \underbrace{a^r}_{\in H}$$

So $r=0 \Rightarrow k = sq$

$$a^k = (a^s)^q = b^q$$

So $H = \langle b \rangle$

second part:

Corollary: subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_n :

For each positive divisor k of n , the set $\langle n/k \rangle$ is the unique subgroup of \mathbb{Z}_n of order k .
 Moreover, these are the only subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_n .

$\mathbb{Z}_{20} = \langle 1 \rangle$

1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20 subgroup

$\langle 0 \rangle$ of order 1

$\langle 10 \rangle$ of order 2

$\langle 5 \rangle$ of order 4

$\langle 4 \rangle$ of order 5

$\langle x \rangle$ of order $10x, 5x, 2x, x, \dots$ = $\langle x \rangle$

$\langle 1 \rangle$ of order 20. x of order 20 =

Thm 4.4: Number of elements of each order in a cyclic group: $\langle x \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_n$

If d is a positive divisor of n , the number of elements of order d in a cyclic group of order n is $\phi(d)$. if n is prime $\rightarrow \phi(d) = n-1$

- 2 $\phi(2) = 1$ (+) $\{1, 2\}$ $\{1, 2\}$
- 3 $\phi(3) = 2$ $\{1, 2, 3\}$ $\{1, 2, 3\}$
- 4 $\phi(4) = 2$ $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$
- 5 $\phi(5) = 4$ $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- 6 $\phi(6) = 2 = \{1, 5\}$
- 7 $\phi(7) = 6 = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$
- 8 $\phi(8) = 4 = \{1, 3, 5, 7\}$

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Corollary: Number of elements of order d in a finite group.

In a finite group, the number of elements of order d is divisible by $\phi(d)$.

Summary:

• Definition of cyclic groups:

① Let G be a group with operation (\cdot)

Pick $x \in G$

What's the smallest subgroup of G that contains x ?

$$\langle x \rangle = \{ \dots, x^{-4}, x^{-3}, x^{-2}, x^{-1}, \underset{e}{1}, x, x^2, x^3, x^4, \dots \}$$

= Group generated by x .

→ If $G = \langle x \rangle$ for some x , then we call G a cyclic group.

② Let H be a group with operation $(+)$

pick $y \in H$

→ Group generated by y = smallest subgroup of H containing y .

$$\langle y \rangle = \{ \dots, -3y, -2y, -y, \underset{e}{0}, y, 2y, 3y, \dots \}$$

→ If $H = \langle y \rangle$ for some y , then we call H a cyclic group.

• Finite cyclic groups:

Group: $G =$ integers mod n under addition

Elements: $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$

G is cyclic: $G = \langle 1 \rangle$

$-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1, n, n+1, n+2, \dots, 2n-1, 2n, \dots$

\downarrow
 $n-2, n-1, 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1, 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1, 0, \dots$

- $n \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$
- $n+1 \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$
- $n+2 \equiv 2 \pmod{n}$
- $n+3 \equiv 3 \pmod{n}$
- $-1 \equiv n-1 \pmod{n}$
- $-2 \equiv n-2 \pmod{n}$
- $-3 \equiv n-3 \pmod{n}$
- \vdots

Note: Sub type of cyclic groups:

1. Infinite: $\mathbb{Z}, +$

2. Finite: $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, +$

$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$: integers mod n .

exp: consider the group \mathbb{Z}_6 : under addition.

$$\mathbb{Z}_6 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

→ consider the cyclic subgroups of \mathbb{Z}_6 : mod 6 also

$$\langle 1 \rangle = \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 \pmod{6}\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 0\}$$

$$\langle 2 \rangle = \{2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2\} = \{2, 4, 6 \pmod{6}, 8 \pmod{6}, 10 \pmod{6}, 12 \pmod{6}\} = \{2, 4, 0\}$$

$$\langle 3 \rangle = \{3, 0\}$$

$$\langle 4 \rangle = \{4, 2, 0\}$$

$$\langle 5 \rangle = \{5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0\}$$

$$\langle 0 \rangle = \{0\}$$

$\langle 1 \rangle$ and $\langle 5 \rangle$ generator to \mathbb{Z}_6 .

$$\langle 1 \rangle = \langle 5 \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_6$$

→ every cyclic group is Abelian. ————— proof w/ is

→ Not All abelian is cyclic.

$U(10)$ is cyclic and Abelian.

$U(12)$ is Abelian but not cyclic.