

## Algebraic Structures I: Groups



Il est peu de notions en mathématiques qui soient plus primitives que celle de loi de composition.

- Nicolas Bourbaki

There are few concepts in mathematics that are more primitive than the composition law.

## Group Theory

Study of **symmetries** and **transformations** of mathematical objects.

Also, the study of abstract algebraic objects called '**groups**'.

## What is group theory good for?

In theoretical computer science:

- Checksums, error-correction schemes
- Minimizing space-complexity of algorithms
- Minimizing randomness-complexity of algorithms
- Cryptosystems
- Algorithms for quantum computers
- Hard instances of optimization problems
- Ketan Mulmuley's approach to P vs. NP

## What is group theory good for?

In puzzles and games:



"15 Puzzle"



Rubik's Cube

SET



## What is group theory good for?

In math:

There's a quadratic formula:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

## What is group theory good for?

In math:

There's a cubic formula:

$$x_1 = \frac{-b}{3a} + \sqrt[3]{\frac{27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d + \sqrt{(27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d)^2 - 4(b^2 - 3ac)^3}}{27a}}$$
$$x_2 = \frac{-b}{3a} + \sqrt[3]{\frac{27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d - \sqrt{(27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d)^2 - 4(b^2 - 3ac)^3}}{27a}}$$
$$x_3 = \frac{-b}{3a} + \sqrt[3]{\frac{27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d + \sqrt{(27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d)^2 - 4(b^2 - 3ac)^3}}{27a}}$$
$$x_4 = \frac{-b}{3a} + \sqrt[3]{\frac{27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d - \sqrt{(27b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d)^2 - 4(b^2 - 3ac)^3}}{27a}}$$

## What is group theory good for?

In math:

There's a quartic formula:

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k, l, & A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UU, UV, UW, UX, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YY, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ
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## What is group theory good for?

In math:

There is **NO** quintic formula.

## What is group theory good for?

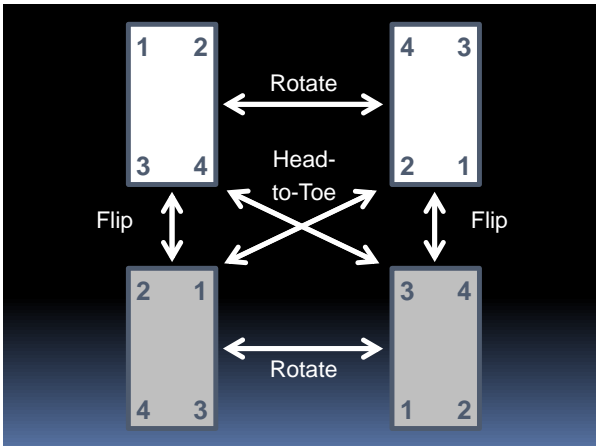
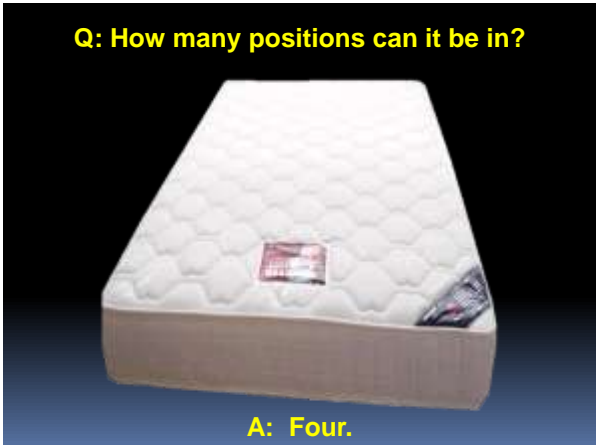
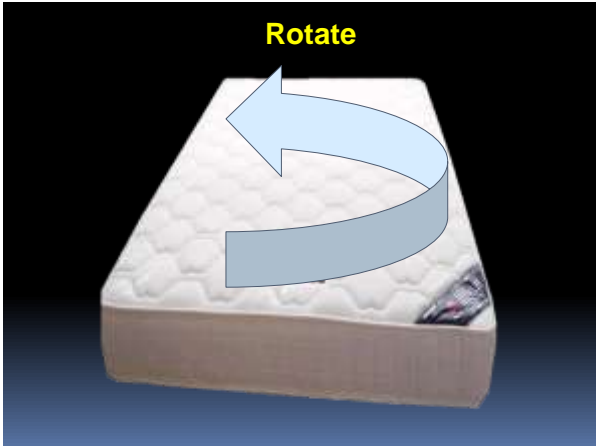
In physics:

Predicting the existence of elementary particles **before** they are discovered.

## So: What *is* group theory?

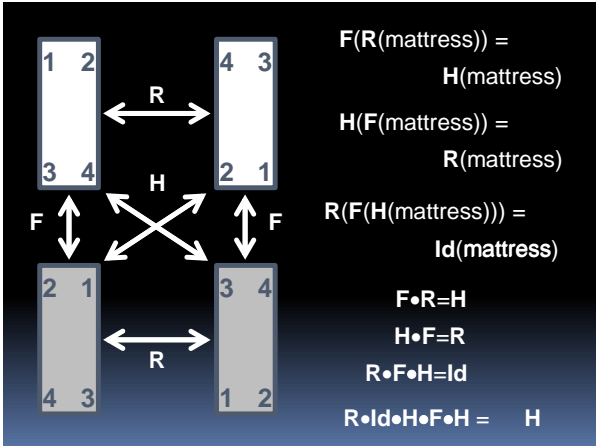
Let's start with an example from

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/05/02/group-think/>



Group theory is not so much about **objects** (like mattresses).

It's about the **transformations** on objects and how they (inter)act.



**The kinds of questions asked:**

What is  $R \bullet \text{Id} \bullet H \bullet F \bullet H$  ?

Do transformations **A** and **B** “commute”?  
 I.e., does  $A \bullet B = B \bullet A$  ?

What is the “order” of transformation **A**?  
 i.e., how many times do you have to apply **A** before you get to **Id** ?

**Definition of a group of transformations**

Let  $X$  be a set.  
 Let  $G$  be a set of **bijections**  $p : X \rightarrow X$ .  
 We say  $G$  is a **group of transformations** if:

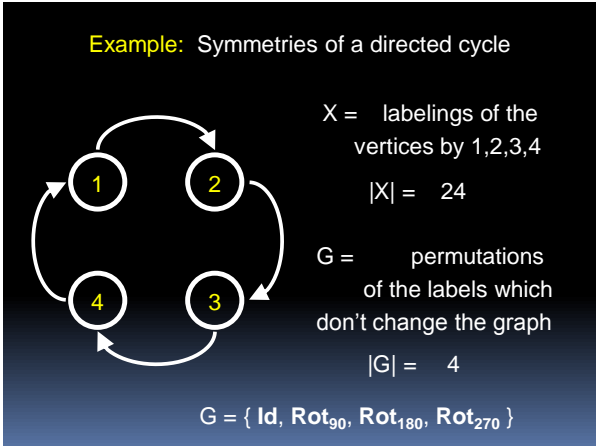
- If  $p$  and  $q$  are in  $G$  then so is  $p \bullet q$ .  
 $G$  is “closed” under composition.
- The ‘do-nothing’ bijection **Id** is in  $G$ .
- If  $p$  is in  $G$  then so is its inverse,  $p^{-1}$ .  
 $G$  is “closed” under inverses.

**Example:** Rotations of a rectangular mattress

$X =$  set of all physical points of the mattress  
 $G = \{ \text{Id}, \text{Rotate}, \text{Flip}, \text{Head-to-toe} \}$

Check the 3 conditions:

- If  $p$  and  $q$  are in  $G$  then so is  $p \bullet q$ . ✓
- The ‘do-nothing’ bijection **Id** is in  $G$ . ✓
- If  $p$  is in  $G$  then so is its inverse,  $p^{-1}$ . ✓



**Example:** Symmetries of a directed cycle

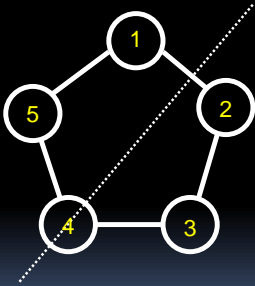
$X =$  labelings of directed 4-cycle  
 $G = \{ \text{Id}, \text{Rot}_{90}, \text{Rot}_{180}, \text{Rot}_{270} \}$

Check the 3 conditions:

- If  $p$  and  $q$  are in  $G$  then so is  $p \bullet q$ . ✓
- The ‘do-nothing’ bijection **Id** is in  $G$ . ✓
- If  $p$  is in  $G$  then so is its inverse,  $p^{-1}$ . ✓

**“Cyclic group of size 4”**

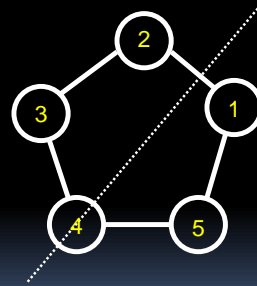
Example: Symmetries of **undirected** n-cycle



X = labelings of the vertices by 1, 2, ..., n  
 G = permutations of the labels which don't change the graph (neighbors stay neighbors & non-nbrs stay non-nbrs)

$$|G| = 2n$$

Example: Symmetries of **undirected** n-cycle

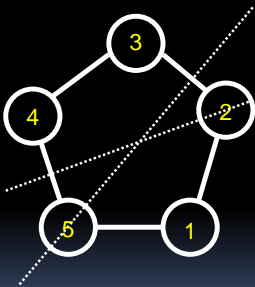


X = labelings of the vertices by 1, 2, ..., n  
 G = permutations of the labels which don't change the graph

$$|G| = 2n$$

+ one clockwise twist

Example: Symmetries of **undirected** n-cycle

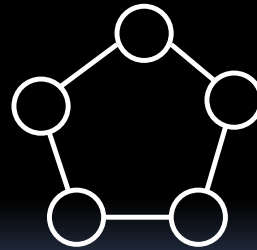


X = labelings of the vertices by 1, 2, ..., n  
 G = permutations of the labels which don't change the graph

$$|G| = 2n$$

+ one clockwise twist =

Example: Symmetries of **undirected** n-cycle



X = labelings of the vertices by 1, 2, ..., n

$$|X| = n!$$

G = permutations of the labels which don't change the graph

$$|G| = 2n$$

$G = \{ \text{Id}, n-1 \text{ 'rotations', } n \text{ 'reflections' } \}$

**"Dihedral group of size 2n"**

Effect of the 16 elements of  $D_8$  on a stop sign



Example: "All permutations"

$$X = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

G = all permutations of X

e.g., for  $n = 4$ , a typical element of G is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 4 & 2 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

**"Symmetric group, Sym(n) or  $S_n$ "**

## More groups of transformations

Motions of 3D space: translations + rotations  
(preserve laws of Newtonian mechanics)

Translations of 2D space by an integer amount  
horizontally and an integer amount vertically

Rotations which preserve an  
old-school soccer ball (icosahedron)



$$|G| = 60$$

## The group of mattress rotation

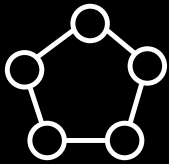
$$G = \{ \text{Id}, R, F, H \}$$

$\text{Id} \bullet \text{Id} = \text{Id}$        $F \bullet \text{Id} = F$   
 $\text{Id} \bullet R = R$        $F \square R = H$   
 $\text{Id} \bullet F = F$        $F \square F = \text{Id}$   
 $\text{Id} \square H = H$        $F \square H = R$   
 $R \square \text{Id} = R$        $H \square \text{Id} = H$   
 $R \square R = \text{Id}$        $H \square R = F$   
 $R \square F = H$        $H \square F = R$   
 $R \square H = F$        $H \square H = \text{Id}$

Group table

	Id	R	F	H
Id	Id	R	F	H
R	R	Id	H	F
F	F	H	Id	R
H	H	F	R	Id

## The laws of the dihedral group of size 10



$$G = \{ \text{Id}, r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4, f_5 \}$$

	Id	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>
Id	Id	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>
r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	Id	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>
r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	Id	r <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>
r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	Id	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>
r <sub>4</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	Id	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>
f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	Id	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	r <sub>1</sub>
f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	Id	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	r <sub>1</sub>
f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	Id	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>1</sub>
f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	Id	r <sub>2</sub>
f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>5</sub>	f <sub>1</sub>	f <sub>2</sub>	f <sub>3</sub>	f <sub>4</sub>	r <sub>2</sub>	r <sub>3</sub>	r <sub>1</sub>	r <sub>4</sub>	Id

God created the integers. All the rest is the work of Man.  
- Leopold Kronecker

**Remainders mod 5**  
 $Z_5 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$   
 $+_5 = \text{addition modulo 5}$

**Integers  $\mathbb{Z}$**

closed under +

$$a+b = b+a$$

$$(a+b)+c = a+(b+c)$$

$$a+0 = 0+a=a$$

$$a+(-a) = 0$$

+	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4	0
2	2	3	4	0	1
3	3	4	0	1	2
4	4	0	1	2	3

$$(a+_n b)+_n c = a+_n (b+_n c)$$

$$a+_n 0 = 0+_n a = a$$

$$a+_n (n-a) = 0$$

The power of algebra:  
Abstract away the inessential  
features of a problem



=



## Let's define an abstract group.

Let  $G$  be a set.

Let  $\diamond$  be a "binary operation" on  $G$ ;

think of it as defining a "multiplication table".

E.g., if  $G = \{ a, b, c \}$  then...

$\diamond$  is a binary operation.

This means that  $c \diamond a = b$ .

$\diamond$	a	b	c
a	c	a	b
b	a	b	c
c	b	c	a

## Definition of an (abstract) group

We say  $G$  is a “group under operation  $\bullet$ ” if:

- [Closure]  $G$  is closed under  $\bullet$   
i.e.,  $a \bullet b \in G \quad \forall a, b \in G$
- [Associativity] Operation  $\bullet$  is **associative**:  
i.e.,  $a \bullet (b \bullet c) = (a \bullet b) \bullet c \quad \forall a, b, c \in G$
- [Identity] There exists an element  $e \in G$   
(called the “identity element”) such that  
 $a \bullet e = a, e \bullet a = a \quad \forall a \in G$
- [Inverse] For each  $a \in G$  there is an element  $a^{-1} \in G$   
(called the “inverse of  $a$ ”) such that  
 $a \bullet a^{-1} = e, a^{-1} \bullet a = e$

## Examples of (abstract) groups

Any group of transformations is a group.

(Only need to check that composition of functions is associative.)

E.g., the ‘mattress group’ (AKA Klein 4-group)

$\bullet$	Id	R	F	H
Id	Id	R	F	H
R	R	Id	H	F
F	F	H	Id	R
H	H	F	R	Id

identity element is Id

$$R^{-1} = R$$

$$F^{-1} = F$$

$$H^{-1} = H$$

## Examples of (abstract) groups

Any group of transformations is a group.

$\mathbb{Z}$  (the integers) is a group under operation  $+$

Check:

- $+$  really is a binary operation on  $\mathbb{Z}$
- $+$  is associative:  $a+(b+c) = (a+b)+c$
- “e” is 0:  $a+0 = a, 0+a = a$
- “ $a^{-1}$ ” is  $-a$ :  $a+(-a) = 0, (-a)+a = 0$

## Examples of (abstract) groups

Any group of transformations is a group.

$\mathbb{Z}$  (the integers) is a group under operation  $+$

$\mathbb{R}$  (the reals) is a group under operation  $+$

$\mathbb{R}^+$  (the positive reals) is a group under  $\times$

$\mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}$  (non-zero rationals) is a group under  $\times$

$\mathbb{Z}_n$  (the integers mod  $n$ ) is a group under  $+$  modulo  $n$

## NONEXAMPLES of groups

$G = \{\text{all odd integers}\}$ , operation  $+$   
 $+$  is not a binary operation on  $G$ !

(Natural numbers,  $+$ )  
No inverses!

$\mathbb{Z}$ , operation  $-$   
 $-$  is not associative! & No identity!

$\mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ , operation  $\times$   
1 is the only possible identity element;  
but then most elements don't have inverses!

## Permutation property

### Dihedral group of size 10

In a group table, every row and every column is a permutation of the group elements

$\square$	Id	$r_1$	$r_2$	$r_3$	$r_4$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$
Id	Id	$r_1$	$r_2$	$r_3$	$r_4$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$
$r_1$	$r_1$	$r_2$	$r_3$	$r_4$	Id	$f_4$	$f_5$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$
$r_2$	$r_2$	$r_3$	$r_4$	Id	$r_1$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$	$f_1$	$f_2$
$r_3$	$r_3$	$r_4$	Id	$r_1$	$r_2$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$	$f_1$
$r_4$	$r_4$	Id	$r_1$	$r_2$	$r_3$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$
$f_1$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$	Id	$r_3$	$r_1$	$r_4$	$r_2$
$f_2$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$	$f_1$	$r_2$	Id	$r_3$	$r_1$	$r_4$
$f_3$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$f_5$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$r_4$	$r_2$	Id	$r_3$	$r_1$
$f_4$	$f_4$	$f_5$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$r_3$	$r_4$	$r_2$	Id	$r_1$
$f_5$	$f_5$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	$f_4$	$r_1$	$r_4$	$r_3$	$r_2$	Id

Follows from “cancellation property” (which we will prove shortly)

## Interlude: Modular arithmetic

## Modular arithmetic

Defn: For integers  $a, b$ , and positive integer  $n$ ,

$$a \equiv b \pmod{n} \text{ means}$$

$(a-b)$  is divisible by  $n$ , or equivalently

$$a \bmod n = b \bmod n \quad (x \bmod n \text{ is remainder of } x \text{ when divided by } n, \text{ and belongs to } \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\})$$

Fundamental lemmas mod  $n$ :

Suppose  $x \equiv y \pmod{n}$  and  $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ . Then

1)  $x + a \equiv y + b \pmod{n}$

2)  $x * a \equiv y * b \pmod{n}$

3)  $x - a \equiv y - b \pmod{n}$

So instead of doing  $+$ ,  $*$ ,  $-$  and taking remainders, we can first take remainders and then do arithmetic.

## Modular arithmetic

$(\mathbb{Z}_n, +)$  is group (understood that  $+$  is  $+$ )

+	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4	0
2	2	3	4	0	1
3	3	4	0	1	2
4	4	0	1	2	3

What about  $(\mathbb{Z}_5, *)$  ?

(\* = multiplication modulo  $n$ )

NOT a group.

1 = candidate for identity, but 0 has no inverse.

*	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4
2	2	4	1	3
3	3	1	4	2
4	4	3	2	1

Okay, what about  $(\mathbb{Z}_5^*, *)$  where

$$\mathbb{Z}_5^* = \mathbb{Z}_5 \setminus \{0\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

It is a group.

Multiplication table mod 6 for  $\mathbb{Z}_6 \setminus \{0\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

*	1	2	3	4	5
1	1	2	3	4	5
2	2	4	0	2	4
3	3	0	3	0	3
4	4	2	0	4	2
5	5	4	3	2	1

Only rows 1 and 5 are permutations of  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$

2, 3, 4 have no inverse

NOT a group !

Multiplicative inverse in  $\mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$

Theorem: For  $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ , there exists  $x \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  such that  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  if and only if

$$\gcd(a, n) = 1$$

Proof (if) : Suppose  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$

There exist integers  $r, s$  such that  $ra + sn = 1$  (Remember?)

So  $ar \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ .

Take  $x = r \pmod{n}$ ,  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  as well.

Multiplicative inverse in  $\mathbb{Z}_n \setminus \{0\}$

Theorem: For  $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ , there exists  $x \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  such that  $ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$  if and only if

$$\gcd(a, n) = 1$$

Proof (only if) : Suppose  $\exists x, ax \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$

So  $ax - 1 = nk$  for some integer  $k$ .

If  $\gcd(a, n) = c$ , then  $c$  divides  $ax - nk$

Since  $ax - nk = 1$ , thus means  $c = 1$ .



Important definition:

$$Z_n^* = \{x \in Z_n \mid \gcd(x,n) = 1\} \quad Z_6 = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$$

$$Z_6^* = \{1, 5\}$$

Elements in  $Z_n^*$  have multiplicative inverses !

*	0	1	2	3	4	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4	5
2	0	2	4	0	2	4
3	0	3	0	3	0	3
4	0	4	2	0	4	2
5	0	5	4	3	2	1

Exercise:

Check  $(Z_n^*, *)$  is a group  
(\* is multiplication modulo n)

$$Z_{12}^* = \{0 \leq x < 12 \mid \gcd(x,12) = 1\}$$

$$= \{1, 5, 7, 11\}$$

* <sub>12</sub>	1	5	7	11
1	1	5	7	11
5	5	1	11	7
7	7	11	1	5
11	11	7	5	1

$$Z_{15}^*$$

*	1	2	4	7	8	11	13	14
1	1	2	4	7	8	11	13	14
2	2	4	8	14	1	7	11	13
4	4	8	1	13	2	14	7	11
7	7	14	13	4	11	2	1	8
8	8	1	2	11	4	13	14	7
11	11	7	14	2	13	1	8	4
13	13	11	7	1	14	8	4	2
14	14	13	11	8	7	4	2	1

$$Z_5^* = \{1, 2, 3, 4\} = Z_5 \setminus \{0\}$$

* <sub>5</sub>	1	2	3	4
1	1	2	3	4
2	2	4	1	3
3	3	1	4	2
4	4	3	2	1

Fact:

For prime  $p$ , the set  $Z_p^* = Z_p \setminus \{0\}$

Proof:

It just follows from the definition!

For prime  $p$ , all  $0 < x < p$  satisfy  $\gcd(x,p) = 1$

Euler Phi Function  $\phi(n)$

$\phi(n)$  = size of  $Z_n^*$   
= number of  $1 \leq k < n$  that are relatively prime to  $n$ .

$p$  prime

$$\Leftrightarrow Z_p^* = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, p-1\}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \phi(p) = p-1$$

## Back to abstract groups

## Abstract algebra on groups

### Theorem 1:

If  $(G, \bullet)$  is a group, identity element is unique.

### Proof:

Suppose  $f$  and  $g$  are both identity elements.

Since  $g$  is identity,  $f \bullet g = f$ .

Since  $f$  is identity,  $f \bullet g = g$ .

Therefore  $f = g$ . □

## Abstract algebra on groups

### Theorem 2:

In any group  $(G, \bullet)$ , inverses are unique.

### Proof:

Given  $a \in G$ , suppose  $b, c$  are both inverses of  $a$ .

Let  $e$  be *the* identity element.

By assumption,  $a \bullet b = e$  and  $c \bullet a = e$ .

Now:  $c = c \bullet e = c \bullet (a \bullet b)$

$$= (c \bullet a) \bullet b = e \bullet b = b \quad \square$$

**Theorem 3 (Cancellation):** If  $a \bullet b = a \bullet c$ , then  $b = c$

Proof: Multiply on left by  $a^{-1}$

### Theorem 4:

For all  $a$  in group  $G$  we have  $(a^{-1})^{-1} = a$ .

### Theorem 5:

For  $a, b \in G$  we have  $(a \bullet b)^{-1} = b^{-1} \bullet a^{-1}$ .

### Theorem 6:

In group  $(G, \bullet)$ , it doesn't matter how you put parentheses in an expression like  $a_1 \bullet a_2 \bullet a_3 \bullet \dots \bullet a_k$  ("generalized associativity").

## Notation

In abstract groups, it's tiring to always write  $\bullet$ .  
So we often write  $ab$  rather than  $a \bullet b$ .

Sometimes write  $1$  instead of  $e$  for the identity  
(When operation is "addition", write  $0$  in place of  $e$ )

For  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , write  $a^n$  instead of  $aaa \dots a$  ( $n$  times).  
Also  $a^{-n}$  instead of  $a^{-1}a^{-1} \dots a^{-1}$ , and  $a^0$  means  $1$ .  
(again denote  $a + a + \dots + a$  by  $na$  for additive groups)

## Algebra practice

**Problem:** In the mattress group  $\{1, R, F, H\}$ ,  
simplify the element  $R^2 (H^3 R^{-1})^{-1}$

**One (slightly roundabout) solution:**

$$H^3 = H H^2 = H 1 = H, \text{ so we reach } R^2 (HR^{-1})^{-1}.$$

$$(HR^{-1})^{-1} = (R^{-1})^{-1} H^{-1} = R H, \text{ so we get } R^2 R H.$$

$$\text{But } R^2 = 1, \text{ so we get } 1 R H = R H = F.$$

**Moral:** the usual rules of multiplication, **except...**

## Commutativity?

In a group we do **NOT NECESSARILY** have

$$a \bullet b = b \bullet a$$

Actually, in the mattress group we **do** have this for all elements; e.g.,  $RF = FR$  ( $=H$ ).

### Definition:

" $a, b \in G$  **commute**" means  $ab = ba$ .

" $G$  is **commutative**" means **all** pairs commute.

In group theory, "commutative groups" are usually called **abelian** groups.



Niels Henrik **Abel** (1802–1829)

Norwegian

Died at 26 of tuberculosis ☹

Age 22: proved there is

no quintic formula.



Evariste **Galois** (1811–1832)

French

Died at 20 in a duel ☹

Laid the foundations of group theory and Galois theory

### Some abelian groups:

"Mattress group"

("Klein 4-group")

Symmetries of a **directed** cycle

("cyclic group")

$(\mathbb{R}, +)$ ,  $(\mathbb{Z}_n^*, \times)$

### Some nonabelian groups:

Symmetries of an **undirected** cycle ("dihedral group")

Permutation group  $S_n$  ("symmetric group on  $n$  elements")

*Invertible*  $n \times n$  real matrices (under matrix product)

## More fun groups:

### Matrix groups

$SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ : Set of matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$

where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $ad - bc = 1$ .

Operation: matrix mult. Inverses:  $\begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$

**Application:** constructing **expander graphs**, 'magical' graphs crucial for **derandomization**.

## Isomorphism

Here's a group:  $V = \{ (0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1) \}$   
+ **modulo 2** is the operation

*There's something familiar about this group...*

	V			
+	00	01	10	11
00	00	01	10	11
01	01	00	11	10
10	10	11	00	01
11	11	10	01	00

**same**  
after  
renaming:  
00 ↔ Id  
01 ↔ R  
10 ↔ F  
11 ↔ H

	The mattress group			
•	Id	R	F	H
Id	Id	R	F	H
R	R	Id	H	F
F	F	H	Id	R
H	H	F	R	Id

## Isomorphism

Groups  $(G, \bullet)$  and  $(H, \diamond)$  are “**isomorphic**” if there is a way to **rename** elements so that they have the **same multiplication table**.

Formally, bijection  $\sigma : G \rightarrow H$  such that  $\sigma(a \bullet b) = \sigma(a) \diamond \sigma(b) \quad \forall a, b \in G$

Fundamentally, they're the “same” abstract group.

## Isomorphism and orders

Obviously, if  $G$  and  $H$  are isomorphic we must have  $|G| = |H|$ .

$|G|$  is called the **order / size** of  $G$ .

E.g.: Let  $C_4$  be the group of transformations preserving the directed 4-cycle.

$$|C_4| = 4$$

Q: Is  $C_4$  isomorphic to the mattress group  $V$  ?

## Isomorphism and orders

Q: Is  $C_4$  isomorphic to the mattress group  $V$  ?

A: No!



$a^2 = 1$  for every element  $a \in V$ .

But in  $C_4$ ,  $\text{Rot}_{90}^2 = \text{Rot}_{180} \neq \text{Rot}_{180}^2 = \text{Id}^2$

Motivates studying **powers of elements**.

## Order of a group element

Let  $G$  be a **finite** group. Let  $a \in G$ .

Look at  $1, a, a^2, a^3, \dots$  till you get some repeat.

Say  $a^k = a^j$  for some  $k > j$ .

Multiply this equation by  $a^{-j}$  to get  $a^{k-j} = 1$ .

So the first repeat is always 1.

**Definition:** The **order** of  $x$ , denoted  $\text{ord}(a)$ , is the smallest  $m \geq 1$  such that  $a^m = 1$ .

Note that  $a, a^2, a^3, \dots, a^{m-1}, a^m=1$  all distinct.

## Examples:

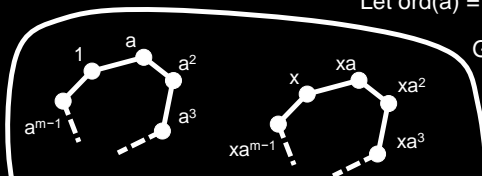
In mattress group (order 4),  
 $\text{ord}(\text{Id}) = 1, \quad \text{ord}(R) = \text{ord}(F) = \text{ord}(H) = 2.$

In directed-4-cycle group (order 4),  
 $\text{ord}(\text{Id}) = 1, \quad \text{ord}(\text{Rot}_{180}) = 2, \quad \text{ord}(\text{Rot}_{90}) = \text{ord}(\text{Rot}_{270}) = 4.$

In dihedral group of order 10  
 (symmetries of undirected 5-cycle)  
 $\text{ord}(\text{Id}) = 1, \quad \text{ord}(\text{any rotation}) = 5, \quad \text{ord}(\text{any reflection}) = 2.$

**Order Theorem:** For a finite group  $G$  &  $a \in G$   
 $\text{ord}(a)$  always divides  $|G|$ .

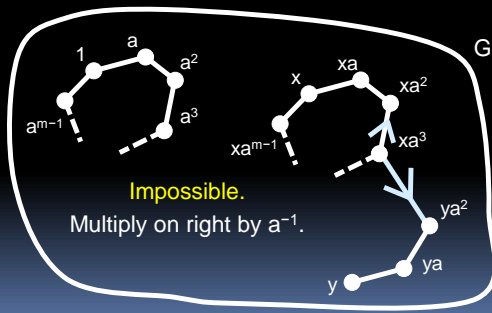
Let  $\text{ord}(a) = m$ .



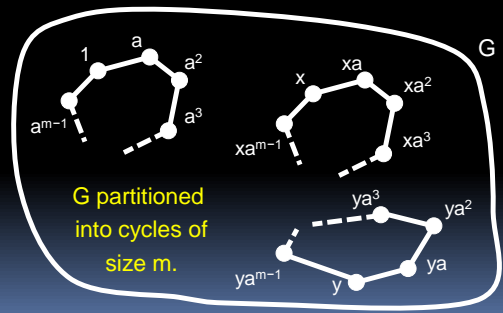
**Claim:** also of length  $m$ .

Because  $xa^1 = xa^k \Rightarrow a^1 = a^k$ .

**Order Theorem:**  $\text{ord}(a)$  always divides  $|G|$ .



**Order Theorem:**  $\forall a \in G$ ,  $\text{ord}(a)$  divides  $|G|$ .



**Order Theorem:**  $\text{ord}(a)$  always divides  $|G|$ .

**Corollary:** If  $|G| = n$ , then  $a^n = 1$  for all  $a \in G$ .

**Proof:** Let  $\text{ord}(a) = m$ . Write  $n = mk$ .  
Then  $a^n = (a^m)^k = 1^k = 1$ .

**Corollary:** Euler's Theorem:  $a^{\phi(n)} = 1$  in  $Z_n^*$

**Corollary (Fermat's little theorem):**  
For prime  $p$ , if  $\text{gcd}(a,p)=1$ , then  
 $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

## Cyclic groups

A finite group  $G$  of order  $n$  is cyclic if  
 $G = \{e, b, b^2, \dots, b^{n-1}\}$  for some group element  $b$

In such a case, we say the element  $b$  "**generates**"  $G$ ,  
or  $b$  is a "**generator**" of  $G$ .

**Examples:**

- $(Z_n, +)$  What is a generator?
- $C_4$  (Symmetries of directed 4-cycle)

**Non-examples:** Matrioska group;  
any non-abelian group.

How many generators does  
 $(Z_n, +)$  have?

**Answer:**  $\Phi(n)$

$b$  generates  $Z_n \Leftrightarrow \exists a$  s.t.  $ba \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$   
( $ba = b + b + \dots + b$  ( $a$  times))

Same holds for *any* cyclic group  
with  $n$  elements

## Subgroups

Q: Is (Even integers,  $+$ ) a group?

A: Yes. It is a "subgroup" of  $(Z, +)$

Definition: Suppose  $(G, \bullet)$  is a group.

If  $H \subseteq G$ , and if  $(H, \bullet)$  is also a group,  
then  $H$  is called a **subgroup** of  $G$ .

To check  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ , check:

1.  $H$  is closed under  $\bullet$
2.  $e \in H$
3. If  $h \in H$  then  $h^{-1} \in H$ 
  - (3<sup>rd</sup> condition follows from 1,2 if  $H$  is finite)

## Examples

Every  $G$  has two trivial subgroups:  $\{e\}$ ,  $G$   
Rest are called "proper" subgroups

Suppose  $k$ ,  $1 < k < n$ , divides  $n$ .

Q1. Is  $\{0, k, 2k, 3k, \dots, (n/k-1)k\}$ ,  $+_n$  subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n)$ ?  
Yes!

Q2. Is  $(\mathbb{Z}_k, +_k)$  a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n)$ ?  
No! it doesn't even have the same operation

Q3. Is  $(\mathbb{Z}_k, +_n)$  a subgroup of  $(\mathbb{Z}_n, +_n)$ ?  
No!  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  is not closed under  $+_n$

## Lagrange's Theorem

**Theorem:** If  $G$  is a finite group, and  $H$  is a subgroup then  
 $|H|$  divides  $|G|$ .

Proof similar to order theorem.

**Corollary (order theorem):** If  $x \in G$ , then  $\text{ord}(x)$  divides  $|G|$ .

**Proof of Corollary:**

Consider the set  $T_x = \{x, x^2, x^3, \dots\}$

(i)  $\text{ord}(x) = |T_x|$

(ii)  $(T_x, \bullet)$  is a subgroup of  $(G, \bullet)$  (check!)

### Definitions:

Groups; Commutative/abelian  
Isomorphism; order of elements;  
subgroups

### Specific Groups:

Klein 4-, cyclic, dihedral,  
symmetric, number-theoretic.

### Doing:

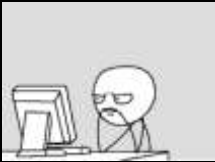
Checking for "groupness"  
Computations in groups

### Theorem/proof:

Order Theorem; Lagrange Thm

### Modular arithmetic

Euler theorem



Study Guide

## More fun groups:

### Quaternion group

$$\mathbb{Q}_8 = \{1, -1, i, -i, j, -j, k, -k\}$$

**Multiplication** 1 is the identity  
**defined by:**  $(-1)^2 = 1$ ,  $(-1)a = a(-1) = -a$   
 $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$   
 $ij = k$ ,  $ji = -k$   
 $jk = i$ ,  $kj = -i$   
 $ki = j$ ,  $ik = -j$

**Exercise:** valid defn. of a (nonabelian) group.

## Application to computer graphics

"Quaternions": expressions like  
 $3.2 + 1.4i - .5j + 1.1k$   
which generalize complex numbers  $(\mathbb{C})$ .

Let  $(x, y, z)$  be a unit vector,  $\theta$  an angle, let  
 $q = \cos(\theta/2) + \sin(\theta/2)x i + \sin(\theta/2)y j + \sin(\theta/2)z k$

Represent  $p=(a,b,c)$  in 3D space by quaternion  $P= a i + b j + c k$   
Then  $qPq^{-1}$  is its rotation by angle  $\theta$  around axis  $(x, y, z)$ .