

PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO JHEP

Group Theory of G.Moore

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1 Concepts of group

1.1 Equivalence relation

Definition 1.1 (Equivalence relation). a, b, c are elements in set X . *Equivalence relation* satisfies

1. $a \sim a$
2. $a \sim b \Rightarrow b \sim a$
3. $a \sim b$ and $b \sim c \Rightarrow a \sim c$

Definition 1.2 (Equivalence class). \sim is an equivalence relation on X . The equivalence class of a is

$$[a] := \{x \in X : x \sim a\} \subset X \quad (1.1)$$

a can be any element in $[a]$

Remark. An equivalence relation can decompose X into a union of mutually disjoint subsets. Conversely, a disjoint decomposition can derive an equivalence relation.

1.2 Group

Definition 1.3 (Group). A *group* is a quartet $(G, \mathbf{m}, \mathbf{I}, e)$

1. G is a set
2. \mathbf{m} is a map (*group multiplication map*): $G \times G \rightarrow G$
3. \mathbf{I} is a map (*inverse map*): $G \rightarrow G$
4. $e \in G$ is a distinguished element of G called the *identity element*.

Definition 1.4 (Direct product). Two groups G_1, G_2 , direct product of G_1, G_2 is a set $G_1 \times G_2$ with product:

$$\mathbf{m}_{G_1 \times G_2}((g_1, g_2), (g'_1, g'_2)) = (\mathbf{m}_{G_1}(g_1, g'_1), \mathbf{m}_{G_2}(g_2, g'_2))$$

Definition 1.5 (Order). *Order* of a group G is the number of elements in G . It is also the cardinality of G as a set.

Definition 1.6 (Abelian). A group G is an Abelian group if any pair of elements in G is commute i.e. $a \cdot b = b \cdot a$

Definition 1.7 (Center). The center $Z(G)$ of the group G is a set of elements $z \in G$ that commute with all elements in G .

$$Z(G) := \{z \in G | zg = gz \ \forall g \in G\}$$

Example 1.1. The General Linear Group and Linear Transformation Group

$$GL(n, \kappa) := \{A | A = n \times n \text{ invertible matrix over } \kappa\}$$

$$GL(V) := \{\text{invertible linear transformations from } V \text{ to itself}\}$$

Example 1.2. Some Standard Matrix Groups

1. The special linear group

$$SL(n, \kappa) := \{A \in GL(n, \kappa) : \det A = 1\}$$

2. The orthogonal group

$$O(n, \kappa) := \{A \in GL(n, \kappa) : AA^{tr} = 1\}$$

3. The special orthogonal group

$$SO(n, \kappa) := \{A \in O(n, \kappa) : \det A = 1\}$$

4. The unitary group

$$U(n) := \{A \in GL(n, \mathbb{C}) : AA^\dagger = 1\}$$

5. The special unitary group

$$SU(n) := \{A \in U(n) : \det A = 1\}$$

Example 1.3. Some groups defined by bilinear forms

b is a bilinear form map i.e.

$$b(x, y) = x^{tr}by = c \quad x, y \in V, \quad c \in \mathbb{R} \text{ or } \mathbb{C}, \quad b \in M_n(\kappa)$$

$$b(\alpha x, \beta y) = \alpha\beta c, \quad b(x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2) = b(x_1, y_1) + b(x_2, y_1) + b(x_1, y_2) + b(x_2, y_2)$$

Define an automorphism group of the bilinear form:

$$\text{Aut}(b) := \{T \in M_n(\kappa) | b(Tx, Ty) = b(x, y) \quad \forall x, y\}$$

$$\text{Aut}(b) := \{T \in M_n(\kappa) | T^{tr}bT = b\}$$

If we want to derive T is invertible from the definition, we should let b be invertible. Taking the transpose of this equation suggests that $b^{tr} = \lambda b$ and $\lambda = \pm 1$.

So there are symmetric and antisymmetric forms of b . That leads to two kinds of automorphism groups e.g. *symplectic matrix* and *Lorentz group*. *Symplectic matrix* is the transform matrix of the canonical coordinates and momenta called canonical transformations.

Example 1.4 (Lorentz group).

$$\eta = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1_{n \times n} \end{pmatrix}$$

the set of matrices $O(1, n) := \{A | A^{tr} \eta A = \eta\}$ is known as the Lorentz group of Minkowski spacetime in $1+n$ dimensions.

Example 1.5 (Symplectic group).

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1_{n \times n} \\ -1_{n \times n} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Sp(2n, \kappa) := \{A \in GL(2n, \kappa) | A^{tr} J A = J\}$$

Example 1.6. Loop group

$$LG := \{f \text{ is a function} | f(S^1 \rightarrow G)\}$$

Example 1.7. Permutation Groups S_X A permutation of a set X is a one-one invertible transformation $\phi : X \rightarrow X$.

Definition 1.8 (Power Set). Power Set is all the subset of a set.

Definition 1.9. Some property of matrix

1. Symplectic $A^{tr} J A = J$
2. Complex $A^{-1} J A = J$
3. Orthogonal $A^{-1} = A^{tr}$

Any two of them imply the third.

2 Homomorphism and Isomorphism

Definition 2.1 (Homomorphism and Isomorphism). Homomorphism is a mapping φ between two groups that preserves the group law i.e.

$$\varphi(\mathbf{m}(g_1, g_2)) = \mathbf{m}'(\varphi(g_1), \varphi(g_2))$$

1. If $\varphi(g) = 1_{G'}$ implies that $g = 1_G$ then φ is called *injective* or *into*.
2. If $\forall g' \in G' \exists g \in G$ s.t. $\varphi(g) = g'$ then φ is called *surjective* or *onto*.
3. If φ is both *into* and *onto*, then φ is called *isomorphism*
4. If φ is *isomorphism*. G and G' are groups with the same set and the same multiplication law. φ will be called *automorphism*

Definition 2.2 (Commutative diagrams). A diagram like the one below is *commutes* iff we follow the arrows around two paths with the same beginning and finish point, composing the mappings on these arrows and getting two equal mappings.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\psi} & B \\ \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \varphi \\ C & \xrightarrow{\eta} & D \end{array}$$

Definition 2.3 (Representation of the group). The (finite-dimensional) representation of a group G is a vector space V together with a homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow GL(V)$. V is called the carrier space.

Example 2.1. $SO(2)$ is isomorphism to $U(1)$

Definition 2.4 (Kernel and image). Kernel and image are two nature subgroups:

1. The *kernel* of homomorphism μ is

$$\ker \mu := \{g \in G | \mu(g) = 1_{G'}\}$$

2. The *image* of μ is

$$\operatorname{im} \mu := \mu(G) \subset G'$$

Example 2.2. There is an important *Homomorphism* from $SU(2)$ to $SO(3)$.

for any $u \in SU(2)$ there is a homomorphism $R(u) \in SO(3)$ s.t. $\forall \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$

$$u\vec{x} \cdot \vec{\sigma} u^{-1} = (R(u)\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{\sigma}$$

In fact, we can define an isomorphism h

$$h : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$$

$$h(\vec{x}) := \vec{x} \cdot \vec{\sigma}$$

We can also define a conjugate of $u \in SU(2)$

$$C_u : \mathcal{H}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_2$$

$$C_u(m) := umu^{-1}$$

Therefore we can define $R(u)$ with a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R}^3 & \xrightarrow{R(u)} & \mathbb{R}^3 \\ \downarrow h & & \downarrow h \\ \mathcal{H}_2 & \xrightarrow{C_u} & \mathcal{H}_2 \end{array}$$

3 Group Actions On Sets

3.1 Conceptions

Definition 3.1 (permutation). A permutation of X is an into and onto mapping from X to X , forming a set S_X , and it forms a group under composition.

Definition 3.2 (left G -action). A left G -action on a set X is a map $\phi := G \times X \rightarrow X$ compatible with

$$\phi(g_1, \phi(g_2, x)) = \phi(g_1 g_2, x)$$

We also impose the condition

$$\phi(1_G, x) = x \quad \forall x \in X$$

This map is a homomorphism from G to S_X

Definition 3.3 (G -set). If X has a group action by a group G we say that X is a G -set.

Definition 3.4 (Orbit). If G acts on a set X we can define an equivalence relation on X . $x_1, x_2 \in X$ are equivalent $x_1 \sim x_2$ if there is some $g \in G$ s.t. $\phi(g, x_1) = x_2$.

$$O_G(x) = \{y : \exists g \text{ s.t. } y = g \cdot x\}$$

The set of orbits is denoted X/G .

Remark. If X, G are topological spaces, with the G action on X continuous the X/G carries a natural topology. (refer to G. Moore Ch1 Page33)

Definition 3.5 (Equivariant map). If X, X' are two G -spaces. We have an equivariant map $f : X \rightarrow X'$

$$f(g \cdot x) = g \cdot f(x)$$

or

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & X' \\ \downarrow \Phi(g) & & \downarrow \Phi'(g) \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & X' \end{array}$$

Remark. Isomorphism is a bijective equivariant map.

Definition 3.6 (Induce Group Actions). Suppose X and Y are two sets and $\mathcal{F}[X \rightarrow Y]$ is the set of functions from X to Y . If there is a left G -action on X defined by $\phi : G \times X \rightarrow X$. There will automatically a G -action $\tilde{\phi} : G \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ on $\mathcal{F}[X \rightarrow Y]$.

$$\tilde{\phi}(g, F) := F(\phi(g^{-1}, x))$$

Remark. Note the inverse of g on the RHS. It guarantees the properties:

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{\phi}(g_1, \tilde{\phi}(g_2, F))(x) &= \tilde{\phi}(g_2, F)(\phi(g_1^{-1}, x)) \\
&= F(\phi(g_2^{-1}, \phi(g_1^{-1}, x))) \\
&= F(\phi(g_2^{-1}g_1^{-1}, x)) \\
&= F(\phi((g_1g_2)^{-1}, x)) \\
&= \tilde{\phi}(g_1g_2, F)(x)
\end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

3.2 More about group actions and orbits

Definition 3.7 (left and right action).

1. left-action:

$$\phi(g_1, \phi(g_2, x)) = \phi(g_1g_2, x)$$

2. right-action:

$$\phi(g_1, \phi(g_2, x)) = \phi(g_2g_1, x)$$

Remark.

1. left-action can be written as:

$$g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot x) = (g_1 \cdot g_2) \cdot x$$

2. right-action can be written as:

$$(x \cdot g_2) \cdot g_1 = x \cdot (g_2 \cdot g_1)$$

3. If ϕ is a left-action the $\tilde{\phi}(g, x) := \phi(g^{-1}, x)$ is a right-action.
4. A given set X can admit more than one action by the same group G . For example, if $X = G$:

$$L(g, g') = gg' \tag{3.2}$$

$$\tilde{L}(g, g') = g^{-1}g' \tag{3.3}$$

$$R(g, g') = g'g \tag{3.4}$$

$$\tilde{R}(g, g') = g'g^{-1} \tag{3.5}$$

$$C(g, g') = g^{-1}g'g \tag{3.6}$$

$$\tilde{C}(g, g') = gg'g^{-1} \tag{3.7}$$

Definition 3.8.

1. A group action is *ineffective* if there is some $g \in G$ with $g \neq 1$ s.t. $g \cdot x = x \forall x \in X$. We can regard group action as a homomorphism $G \rightarrow S_X$, then the action is effective means the homomorphism is injective. The set of g that act ineffectively is the ker of the homomorphism and they form a normal subgroup of G .

2. *transitive*: for any pair $x, y \in X$ there is some g with $y = g \cdot x$.
3. *free*: for any $g \neq 1$ for every x , we have $g \cdot x \neq x$.

In summary:

Effective: If $g \neq 1$, $\phi_g \neq 1$

Transitive: You can always find g that links any two pairs.

Free: All g except $g = 1$, change every element in X .

Definition 3.9 (isotropy group (stabilizer group)). Given a point $x \in X$

$$Stab_G(x) := \{g \in G : g \cdot x = x\} \subset G$$

is called the isotropy group at x . It is also called the stabilizer group of x denoted G^x . A group action is free iff for every $x \in X$ so that G^x is the trivial subgroup $\{1_G\}$

Definition 3.10 (fixed point). A point $x \in X$ is a fixed point of the G -action if there exists some elements $g \in G$ with $g \neq 1$ s.t. $g \cdot x = x$. That means $Stab_G(x)$ is nontrivial. We don't need $Stab_G(x) = G$.

Definition 3.11 (fixed point set). The fixed point set of g is the set

$$Fix_X(g) := \{x \in X : g \cdot x = x\} \subset X$$

denoted by X^g . If the group action is free, the set $Fix_X(g)$ is empty for all $g \neq 1$.

Remark. The group action is restricted to a transitive group action on any orbit.

If x, y are in the same orbit then the isotropy groups G^x, G^y are conjugate subgroups in G .

Definition 3.12. If G acts on X . A stratum is a set of G -orbits s.t. the conjugacy class of the stabilizer groups is the same. The set of strata is denoted $X//G$

Definition 3.13 (Derangements). The permutation without fixed points is called a derangement. the number of derangements in S_n is

$$D_n = n! \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{k!}$$

If we have an infinitely large set and the probability of choosing a derangement is $e^{-1} = 0.3678 \dots$

Definition 3.14 (induced group action). Let X be a G -set and let Y be any set. Given the function $\Psi \in Map(X, Y)$ and $g \in G$, we need to produce a new function $\phi(g, \Psi) \in Map(X, Y)$

1. If G is a left-action on X then:

$$\phi(g, \Psi)(x) := \Psi(g \cdot x) \quad \text{right action on } Map(X, Y)$$

2. If G is a left-action on X then:

$$\phi(g, \Psi)(x) := \Psi(g^{-1} \cdot x) \quad \text{left action on } \text{Map}(X, Y)$$

3. If G is a right-action on X then:

$$\phi(g, \Psi)(x) := \Psi(x \cdot g) \quad \text{left action on } \text{Map}(X, Y)$$

4. If G is a right-action on X then:

$$\phi(g, \Psi)(x) := \Psi(x \cdot g^{-1}) \quad \text{right action on } \text{Map}(X, Y)$$

Definition 3.15 (Poincaré transformation). Suppose $X = \mathbb{M}^{1,d-1}$ is d -dimensional Minkowski space time, G is the Poincaré group and $Y = \mathbb{R}$. Given one scalar field Ψ and a Poincaré transformation $g^{-1} \cdot x = \lambda x + v$. We have

$$(g \cdot \Psi)(x) = \Psi(\lambda x + v)$$

Definition 3.16 (general action). If X is a G_1 -set and Y is a G_2 -set. We have a natural $G_1 \times G_2$ -action on $\text{Map}(X, Y)$ defined by

$$\phi((g_1, g_2), \Psi)(x) := g_2 \cdot (\Psi(g_1^{-1} \cdot x))$$

Example 3.1. Let $X = \mathbb{M}^{1,d-1}$, G to be the Poincaré group and $Y = V$ is the finite-dimensional representation of the Poincaré group. We denoted the action of $g \in G$ on V by $\rho(g)$. Then we have

$$\phi(g, \Psi)(x) = \rho(g)\Psi(g^{-1}x)$$

Theorem 3.1 (The Stabilizer-Orbit Theorem). There is a natural isomorphism of G -sets

$$\psi : \text{Orb}_G(x) \rightarrow G/G^x$$

Proof. Suppose y is in a G -orbit of x . Then $\exists g$ s.t. $y = g \cdot x$. Define

$$\psi(y) = g \cdot G^x$$

It is G -equivariant:

$$\psi(gy) = g\psi(y)$$

and invertible:

$$\psi^{-1}(gG^x) = g \cdot x$$

So it is an isomorphism. □

Corollary: If G acts transitively on X then the isotropy groups G^x for all the points $x \in X$ are conjugate subgroups of G

Example 3.2. This theorem connected algebraic notions of subgroups and cosets to the geometric notions of orbits and fixed points.

If G, H are topological groups then, sometimes G/H are beautifully symmetric topological spaces, if G, H are Lie groups then, sometimes, G/H are symmetric manifolds.

One example of homogeneous spaces is in describing the vacua of a scalar field theory with a global symmetry.

Suppose ϕ is a scalar field on d -dimensional Minkowski space, $\mathbb{M}^{1,d-1}$, valued in some representation space V of a compact Lie group G . Suppose $U(\phi)$ is a G -invariant potential energy.

Theorem 3.2. As a claim, there is a theorem:

Consider a group \mathbb{Z}_p with p as a prime number. We can prove that any element $g \neq np$ is a generator of the group.

Corollary: the Orbit of \mathbb{Z}_p can only be a single point or p distinct points.

Theorem 3.3 (Burnside lemma). Suppose a finite group G acts on a finite set X as a transformation group

The number of the orbits has a relation with the averaged number of the fixed points.

$$|\{orbits\}| = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_g |X^g|$$

In fact, $\sum_g |X^g| = \sum_x |G^x|$

Theorem 3.4 (Jordan's theorem). Suppose G is finite and acts transitively on a finite set X with more than one point. Show that there is an element $g \in G$ with no fixed points on X .

Hint: The number of orbit is one and apply Burnside lemma.

Example 3.3.

1. For $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and the actions are S_n . The action is effective and transitive but not free. The fixed point of any $j \in X$ is just the permutations of everything else.

$$S_X^j \cong S_n$$

2. $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ acts on \mathbb{R}^n by matrix multiplication. If we act with a matrix on a column vector we get a left action. If we act on a row vector we get a right action.

Remark: it is not transitive because it can only map $\vec{x} = 0$ to 0. It is also not free, $\vec{0}$ is a fixed point. There are two orbits.

3. If we change the restrict from GL to SO and consider $n=2$. There will be infinitely many orbits of $SO(2)$ and they are distinguished by the invariant value of $x^2 + y^2$. From the viewpoint of topology, there are two distinct "kinds" of orbits, give two strata.

4.

$$\text{Stab}_{SO(3)}(\hat{n}) \cong SO(2)$$

For $\hat{n} \in S^2$

$$S^2 \cong SO(3)/SO(2)_{\hat{n}}$$

Fixing any \hat{n} . There is a map

$$\pi_{\hat{n}} : SO(3) \rightarrow S^2$$

$$\pi_{\hat{n}}(R) := R \cdot \hat{n} \in S^2$$

The inverse will be a set:

$$\pi_{\hat{n}}^{-1}(\hat{k}) := \{R | R\hat{n} = \hat{k}\} \subset SO(3)$$

This set will be in 1-1 correspondence with elements of $SO(2)$. $\hat{k} = R_1\hat{n} = R_2\hat{n}$ and $R_1^{-1}R_2\hat{n} = \hat{n}$. Then $R_1^{-1}R_2 = R_0 \in \text{Stab}_{SO(3)}(\hat{n}) \cong SO(2)$

We can define subgroups of $SO(3)$

$$R_{12}(\phi) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \phi & \sin \phi & 0 \\ -\sin \phi & \cos \phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_{23}(\phi) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \phi & \sin \phi \\ 0 & -\sin \phi & \cos \phi \end{pmatrix}$$

In fact, The general element of $SO(3)$ can be written as

$$R = R_{12}(\phi)R_{23}(\theta)R_{12}(\psi)$$

If we set $\theta = 0$ then we get a one-dimensional subspace of $SO(3)$: $R_{12}(\phi + \psi)$. This explains why the generic matrix has a unique Euler angle presentation but the manifold $SO(3)$ is not the same as $S^2 \times S^1$

5. $GL(2, \mathbb{C})$ and $SU(2)$ act on \mathbb{CP}^1

\mathbb{CP}^1 is the equivalence classes of points $(z_1, z_2) \in \mathbb{C}^2 - \{0\}$ with equivalence relation $(z'_1, z'_2) \sim (\lambda z_1, \lambda z_2)$ denoted by $[z_1 : z_2]$

We can also regard it as the space of a states of a single Qbit with $|z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 = 1$.

$$\psi = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Obviously, $GL(2)$ action is transitive and therefore we have an identification:

$$GL(2, \mathbb{C})/\text{Stab}_{GL(2, \mathbb{C})}(p) \cong \mathbb{CP}^1 \quad p \in \mathbb{CP}^1$$

For $SU(2)$, it is still transitive. The stabilizer of $[1 : 0]$ is isomorphic to $U(1)$. Therefore, there is also an identification

$$\mathbb{CP}^1 \cong SU(2)/U(1)$$

Hence, there is a nature map

$$\pi : SU(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$$

We can use Riemann sphere to identify \mathbb{CP}^1 by stereographic projection. We can define a map

$$\phi_N : \mathcal{U}_N \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad \phi_N([z_1 : z_2]) := z_S := z_2/z_1$$

where $z_1 \neq 0$. In terms of the identification $S^2 \cong \mathbb{CP}^1$

$$z_N = \frac{x_1 + ix_2}{1 - x_3}$$

or

$$z_S = \frac{x_1 - ix_2}{1 + x_3}$$

Since $S^3 \cong SU(2)$, we have a nature continuous map:

$$\pi : S^3 \rightarrow S^2$$

whose fibers are copies of S^1 . This is a famous map known as the *Hopf map*. This is very closely related to the map $\pi : SO(3) \rightarrow S^2$.

4 The Symmetric Group

We shall soon see, that all finite groups are isomorphic to subgroups of the symmetric group.

Definition 4.1 (left and right operations).

$$(\phi_1 \cdot_L \phi_2)(i) := \phi_2(\phi_1(i))$$

$$(\phi_1 \cdot_R \phi_2)(i) := \phi_1(\phi_2(i))$$

\cdot_L means we read the operations from left to right and apply the left permutation first, then the right.

Definition 4.2 (permutation). We can write a permutation symbolically as

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \cdots & n \\ p_1 & p_2 & \cdots & p_n \end{pmatrix}$$

That means $\phi(1) = p_1, \phi(2) = p_2, \dots, \phi(n) = p_n$, This is equal to

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_n \\ p_{a_1} & p_{a_2} & \cdots & p_{a_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Remark.

$$\phi_1 \cdot_L \phi_2 = (\phi_1^{-1} \cdot_R \phi_2^{-1})^{-1}$$

Definition 4.3 (Canonical Permutation Representation). Consider the n dimension vector space with basis vectors $\vec{e}_1, \dots, \vec{e}_n$. The symmetric group permutes these vectors in an obvious way:

$$T(\phi) : \vec{e}_i \rightarrow \vec{e}_{\phi(i)}$$

$$T(\phi) : \sum_{i=1}^n x_i e_i \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n x_i e_{\phi(i)} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{\phi^{-1}(i)} e_i$$

Remark.

$$T(\phi_1) \circ T(\phi_2) = T(\phi_1 \circ \phi_2) = T(\phi_1 \cdot_R \phi_2)$$

$$(T(\phi)^{-1} A T(\phi))_{i,j} = A_{\phi(i), \phi(j)}$$

Definition 4.4 (Signed Permutation Matrices). Signed permutation matrices are matrices *s.t.* in each row and column there is only one nonzero matrix element and the nonzero element can be eight $+1$ or -1 . The set of $n \times n$ signed permutation matrices form a group. We denote it by $W(B_n)$

Theorem 4.1 (Cayley's Theorem). Any finite group is isomorphic to a subgroup of permutation group S_N for some N

Definition 4.5 (Reducible). In general, if we have a representation of a group $T : G \rightarrow GL(V)$ and a nontrivial subspace $W \subset V$ such that $T(g)$ takes vectors in W to vectors in W for all $g \in G$, we say that the representation is reducible. [Representation Theory](#)

Definition 4.6 (Cyclic Permutation). The cyclic permutations of length is

$$a_1 \rightarrow a_2 \rightarrow a_3 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow a_l$$

denoted as

$$\phi = (a_1 a_2 \dots a_l) = (a_2 a_3 \dots a_l a_1)$$

Remark. Usually, the multiply is \cdot_R

Definition 4.7 (Cycle Decomposition). Any permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ can be uniquely written as a product of disjoint cycles. This is called the cycle decomposition of σ .

Definition 4.8 (Transposition). A transposition is a permutation of the form (ij) . Transpositions obey the following identities:

$$(ij)(jk)(ij) = (jk)(ij)(jk)$$

$$(ij)^2 = 1$$

$$(ij)(kl) = (kl)(ij) \quad \{i, j\} \cap \{k, l\} = \emptyset$$

Remark. Every element of S_n can be written as a product of transpositions. We say that the transpositions *generate* the permutation group.

We might call the products a "word" and the "letters" are the transpositions $(1, k)(1, k-1) \cdots (1, 4)(1, 3)(1, 2) = (1, 2, 3, 4, \dots, k)$

Definition 4.9 (alternating group). The alternating group A_n is the subgroup of S_n of even permutations.

Remark. The order of A_n is $\frac{n!}{2}$.

Example 4.1 (Two kinds of generators sets). Two smaller sets of generators of S_n

1. $\sigma_i := (i, i+1), 1 \leq i \leq n-1$
2. (12) and $(12 \cdots n)$

5 Cosets and conjugacy

5.1 Lagrange Theorem

Definition 5.1 (Left-coset). Let $H \subseteq G$ be a subgroup. The set

$$gH \equiv \{gh | h \in H\} \subset G$$

is called a left-coset of H .

Remark. Two left cosets are either identical or disjoint. That means the cosets define an equivalence relation by saying $g_1 \sim g_2$ if there is an $h \in H$ s.t. $g_1 = g_2 h$

Theorem 5.1 (Lagrange Theorem). If H is a subgroup of a finite group G then the order of H divides the order of G :

$$|G|/|H| \in \mathbb{Z}_+$$

Lemma 5.1.1. Any finite group of prime order p is isomorphic to $\mu_p \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ with only two subgroups: the trivial group and itself.

Definition 5.2 (homogeneous space(set of left cosets)). If G is any group and H any subgroup then the set of left cosets of H in G is denoted G/H . It is the set of orbits under the right H action on G . A set of the form G/H is also referred to as a homogeneous space. The cardinality of this set is the index of H in G , and denoted $[G : H]$.

Remark. A converse to Lagrange's theorem is not true. If $n \nmid |G|$ (a divides b), There might be no subgroup of G of order n .

Theorem 5.2 (Sylow's first theorem). Suppose p is prime and p^k divides $|G|$ for a non-negative integer k . Then there is a subgroup $H \subset G$ of order p^k . [Centralizer Subgroups And Counting Conjugacy Classes](#)

Definition 5.3 (Order of the element). An element $g \in G$ has order n if n is the smallest natural number such that $g^n = 1$

5.2 Conjugacy

Definition 5.4 (Conjugacy (similarity of matrices)).

1. A group element h is conjugate to h' means $\exists h \in G \quad h' = ghg^{-1}$
2. Conjugacy defines an equivalence relation and the conjugacy class of h is the equivalence class under this relation:

$$C(h) := \{ghg^{-1} : h \in H\}$$

3. Let $H \subseteq G, K \subseteq G$ be two subgroups. We say "H is conjugate to K" if $\exists g \in G$ s.t.

$$K = gHg^{-1} := \{ghg^{-1} : h \in H\}$$

4. Two homomorphism $\varphi_i : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ are conjugate if $\exists g_2 \in G_2$ s.t.

$$\varphi_2(g_1) = g_2\varphi_1(g_1)g_2^{-1} \quad \forall g_1 \in G_1$$

5. A matrix representation of G is a homomorphism

$$\varphi : G \rightarrow GL(n, \kappa)$$

If two representations are conjugate, we say they are *equivalent representations*.

Remark. Put differently, two representations $T_1 : G \rightarrow GL(V_1), T_2 : G \rightarrow GL(V_2)$ are said to be equivalent if there is an isomorphism map $S : V_1 \rightarrow V_2$. (We will discuss "intertwiners" in [Representation Theory](#))

Example 5.1. All cyclic permutations in S_n are conjugate.

Definition 5.5 (Maximal torus). For compact Lie group G . any Abelian subgroup of G is isomorphic to $U(1)^r$. r is called the *rank*. Any two maximal Abelian subgroups are conjugate groups. Such a maximal Abelian subgroup is the maximal torus.

Definition 5.6 (Class function). A class function on a group is a function f on G such that

$$f(g_0gg_0^{-1}) = f(g) \quad \forall g_0, g \in G$$

Example 5.2. If φ is a matrix representation then

$$\chi_\varphi(g) := \text{Tr } \varphi(g)$$

is a example of a class function. We call it the character of the representation.

Another class function is the characteristic polynomial:

$$p_A(x) := \det(xI - A)$$

($p_A(x)$ is the value of the function.)

5.3 Normal Subgroups And Quotient Groups

Definition 5.7 (Normal subgroup). A subgroup $N \subseteq G$ is called *normal* subgroup (*invariant* subgroup) if

$$gNg^{-1} = N \quad \forall g \in G$$

denoted as $N \triangleleft G$

Theorem 5.3 (Quotient group). If $N \subset G$ is a normal subgroup then the set of left cosets $G/N = \{gN | g \in G\}$ has a natural group structure:

$$(g_1N)(g_2N) := (g_1 \cdot g_2)N$$

We call it a Quotient group

Remark.

1. All subgroups N of Abelian groups A are normal, and the quotient group A/N is Abelian.
2. If we have the representation $T : G \rightarrow GL(n, \kappa)$ of G and if $H \subset G$ is a subgroup then we can restrict T to H to get a representation of H . But the quotient of G : Q can not get a representation from T .

Example 5.3 (Cyclic group).

$$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}_n \text{ or } \mu_n$$

Definition 5.8 (simple group). A group with only $\{1\}$ and G being its normal subgroup, i.e. with no nontrivial normal subgroup, is called a *simple group*.

Theorem 5.4 (Cancellation Theorem). Suppose we have a chain of normal subgroups:

$$K \triangleleft N \triangleleft G$$

and $K \triangleleft G$

- 1.

$$N/K \triangleleft G/K$$

2. There is an isomorphism of groups

$$G/N \cong (G/K)/(N/K)$$

Definition 5.9 (p-Sylow subgroup). Consider prime p , if we take the largest prime power p^k dividing $|G|$, then a subgroup of order p^k is called a p -Sylow subgroup.

Theorem 5.5 (Sylow's second theorem). All the p -Sylow subgroups are conjugate.

Remark. Sylow's third theorem is about the number of p -Sylow's subgroups.

Definition 5.10 ($PSU(N)$). The center of $U(N)$ consists of matrices proportional to the unit matrix.

The center of $SU(N)$ should also be diagonal and $zI_{N \times N}$ in $SU(N)$ means $z^N = 1$. So $Z(SU(N)) \cong \mu_N \cong \mathbb{Z}_N$.

$$PSU(N) := SU(N)/\mathbb{Z}_N$$

$$PSU(N) \cong U(N)/Z(U(N)) \cong U(N)/U(1)$$

Theorem 5.6. If the center $Z(G)$ s.t. $G/Z(G)$ is cyclic then G is Abelian.

Definition 5.11 (Group Commutator). If g_1, g_2 are elements of group G the the group commutator is defined to be

$$[g_1, g_2] := g_1 g_2 g_1^{-1} g_2^{-1}$$

Definition 5.12 (Commutator subgroup). Commutator subgroup of G is denoted by $[G, G]$ or G' is the subgroup generated by words in all group commutator $g_1 g_2 g_1^{-1} g_2^{-1}$

Remark. $[G, G]$ is a normal subgroup of G ($g_0 [g_1, g_2] g_0' = [g_1', g_2']$)

Definition 5.13 (Abelianization). $G/[G, G]$ is abelian. This is called the *abelianization* of G .

Definition 5.14 (Perfect group). A perfect group is a group which is equal to its commutator subgroup.

Remark. A nonabelian simple group must be perfect.

Example 5.4. The commutator subgroup of S_n is A_n

Definition 5.15 (The Normalizer Subgroup). Consider $H \subset G$ is a subgroup of G . The *normalizer* of H within G is the largest subgroup N of G such that H is a normal subgroup of N .

$$N_G(H) := \{g \in G | gHg^{-1} = H\}$$

is a subgroup of G and H is a normal subgroup of $N_G(H)$.

Example 5.5 (Quotient Groups of $SU(2)$). $D \subset SU(2)$ is subgroup of diagonal matrices.

$$SU(2) := \begin{pmatrix} z & -w^* \\ w & z^* \end{pmatrix} \quad |z|^2 + |w|^2 = 1$$

$$D := \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^* \end{pmatrix} \quad |a|^2 = 1$$

Note that $D \cong U(1)$.

Then

$$N_{SU(2)}(D) := \begin{pmatrix} z & 0 \\ 0 & z^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -z^{-1} \\ z & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad z \text{ is phase}$$

$$N_{SU(2)}(D)/D \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$$

Definition 5.16 (Weyl Group). T is a maximal torus of Lie group G . The Weyl group of G is :

$$W(G) := N_G(T)/T$$

Remark.

$$W(SU(n)) := N_{SU(2)}(D)/D \cong S_n$$

Theorem 5.7. $N \triangleleft G$. Define a homomorphism $\varphi : G \rightarrow \tilde{G}$. $\varphi(N) \subset \tilde{G}$ is a subgroup. It is a normal subgroup iff φ is surjective.

5.4 Short Exact Sequences

Definition 5.17 (Exact sequence). Suppose we have three groups and two homomorphism, an *exact sequence* is

$$G_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} G_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} G_3$$

the sequence is exact at G_2 iff $\text{im } f_1 = \ker f_2$

Definition 5.18 (Short exact sequence). A short exact sequence is a sequence of the form

$$1 \rightarrow G_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} G_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} G_3 \rightarrow 1$$

exact at G_1, G_2, G_3

Remark.

1. Exactness at G_1 : f_1 is an injective homomorphism.
2. Exactness at G_2 : $\text{im } f_1 = \ker f_2$
3. Exactness at G_3 : f_2 is a surjective homomorphism.

Theorem 5.8. Suppose we have a group homomorphism $\mu : G \rightarrow G'$. We have a natural short exact sequence:

$$1 \rightarrow \ker(\mu) \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\mu} \text{im}(\mu) \rightarrow 1$$

$\ker(\mu) \subset G$ is a normal subgroup of G

Theorem 5.9.

$\mu(G) \cong G / \ker(\mu)$

Theorem 5.10. With a short exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow N \rightarrow G \rightarrow Q \rightarrow 1$$

N is automatically isomorphic to a normal subgroup of G . Q is isomorphic to G/N . Then we say " G is an extension of Q by N " (or G is an extension of N by Q)

Remark. In quantum mechanics physical states are actually represented by "rays" in Hilbert space (one-dimensional subspaces of Hilbert space or orthogonal projection operators of rank one—— density matrices).

When comparing symmetries of quantum systems with their classical counterparts, group extensions play an important role. [Group Extensions and Group Cohomology](#)

Example 5.6. Consider a homomorphism $\pi : \mu_4 \rightarrow \mu_2$ given by $\pi(g) = g^2$. The kernel is μ_2 . So

$$1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow 1$$

Furthermore

$$1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow 1$$

p is any prime.

Example 5.7 (Finite Heisenberg Groups). Let P, Q be "clock" and "shift" matrices. $\omega = \exp [2\pi i/N]$

$$P_{i,j} = \delta_{i=j+1 \bmod N}$$

$$Q_{i,j} = \delta_{i,j} \omega^j$$

Note that $P^N = Q^N = 1$ and $QP = \omega PQ$

These forms a group with elements:

$$\omega^a P^b Q^c$$

$$(\omega^{a_1} P^{b_1} Q^{c_1}) \cdot (\omega^{a_2} P^{b_2} Q^{c_2}) = \omega^{a_3} P^{b_3} Q^{c_3}$$

$$a_3 = a_1 + a_2 + c_1 b_2$$

$$b_3 = b_1 + b_2$$

$$c_3 = c_1 + c_2$$

This group is called a finite Heisenberg group and is denoted by Heis_N .⁸ It is an extension

$$1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow \text{Heis}_N \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_N \rightarrow 1$$

$$\pi(\omega^a P^b Q^c) = (b \bmod N, c \bmod N)$$

5.5 Conjugacy Classes In S_n

If $(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k)$ is a cycle of length k then $g(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k)g^{-1}$ is a cycle of length k. It is the cycle where we replace $i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k$ by their images under g. i.e. $g(i_a) = j_a$, then $g(i_1 i_2 \cdots i_k)g^{-1} = (j_1 j_2 \cdots j_k)$

Therefore, any two cycles of length k are conjugate.

It is easy to prove that any element in S_n can be written as a product of disjoint cycles. Therefore, the conjugacy classed in S_n is labeled by a series of nonnegative integers, denoted l_j , which are the number of distinct cycles of length j.

Definition 5.19 (Partition of n). A decomposition of n into a sum of nonnegative integers is called a partition of n .

The conjugacy classes of S_n are in 1-1 correspondence with the partitions of n .

Definition 5.20. The number of distinct partitions of n is called the partition function of n and denoted $p(n)$

Remark. This is different from the partition function in field theory!

Definition 5.21 (Order of the conjugacy class).

$$|C(g)| = \frac{n!}{\prod_{j=1}^n j^{l_j} l_j!}$$

Definition 5.22 (Sign of the conjugacy class). The sign of a conjugacy class is $\epsilon(g) = (-1)^{n + \sum_j l_j}$

Proof. Suppose the partition is $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k)$. Here k is the total number of disjoint cycles $k = \sum_j l_j$.

Rewrite the cycle with transpositions have the number of transpositions as:

$$(\lambda_1 - 1) + (\lambda_2 - 1) + \dots + (\lambda_k - 1) = \sum_i^k \lambda_i - k = n - k$$

The sign of a cycle is $\text{sgn}(\sigma) = -1$ if σ can be written as an odd number of transposition and v/v . □

Example 5.8 (Harmonic Oscillators).

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \frac{1}{2}(p^2 + \omega^2 q^2) \\ [\hat{p}, \hat{q}] &= -i\hbar \\ a &:= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hbar\omega}}(\omega\hat{q} + i\hat{p}) \\ a^\dagger &:= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hbar\omega}}(\omega\hat{q} - i\hat{p}) \\ [a, a^\dagger] &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Remark.

1. a, a^\dagger form an algebra \mathcal{A} called $*$ -algebra.
2. If we only consider the operator algebra without considering H then there are a number of different ways to represent it.

Postulate a vector $|0\rangle$ with $a|0\rangle = 0$. The Hilbert space is spanned by $(a^\dagger)^n|0\rangle$. We can make a linear transformation to

$$b = \alpha a + \beta a^\dagger$$

$$b^\dagger = \gamma a + \delta a^\dagger$$

$[b, b^\dagger]$ if $\alpha\delta - \beta\gamma = 1$. If preserve the $*$ structure then $\delta = \alpha^*$ and $\gamma = \beta^*$

The group with such matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta \\ \beta^* & \alpha^* \end{pmatrix} \quad |\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2 = 1$$

forms the group

$$SU(1, 1) := \{A \in M_2(\mathbb{C}) | A^\dagger \eta A = \eta\}$$

Then we have a different representation: $b|0\rangle_b = 0$. For a finite number of oscillators, the representations will be equivalent by the **Bogoliubov transformation**. But for an infinite number of oscillators, the representation can be inequivalent. [Group Extensions and Group Cohomology](#)

Definition 5.23 ((physics) partition function).

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{single \text{ h.o.}}} e^{-\beta H} = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}\beta\omega}}{1 - e^{-\beta\omega}}$$

Suppose they have frequencies that are all a multiple of a basic harmonic which we'll denote ω_0 . The motivation comes from the theory of strings.

We can write the standard sum of harmonic oscillator Hamiltonians we get, formally,

$$H^{formal} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j\omega_0 (a_j^\dagger a_j + \frac{1}{2})$$

$$a_j |vac\rangle = 0 \quad \forall j$$

Then the groundstate energy is infinite. However, there is a very natural way to regularize and renormalize this divergence by using the Riemann zeta function.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{j}{2} \omega &= \frac{\omega_0}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j^{-1}} \\ &\xrightarrow[\text{analytic continuation}]{\text{renormalize}} \frac{\omega_0}{2} \zeta(-1) \\ &= -\frac{\omega_0}{24} \end{aligned}$$

We can show that this is reasonable. In any case, things work out very nicely if we take Hamiltonian to be:

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j\omega_0 a_j^\dagger a_j - \frac{\omega_0}{24}$$

The dimension of the space of states of $n\omega_0$ is $p(n)$, the partitions of n .

$$(a_1^\dagger)^{l_1}(a_2^\dagger)^{l_2}\dots(a_n^\dagger)^{l_n}|0\rangle$$

hence the vectors are in 1-1 correspondence with the conjugacy classes of S_n . This turns out to be significant in the boson-fermion correspondence in 1+1 dimensional quantum field theory.

The quantum statistical mechanical partition function of this collection of oscillators has a truly remarkable property:

Let q be a complex number with $|q| < 1$

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{j=1}^{\infty}(1-q^j)} = (1+q+q^2+\dots)(1+q^2+q^4+\dots)(1+q^3+q^6+\dots)\dots \quad (5.1)$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p(n)q^n \quad (5.2)$$

(We know $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} q^{sj} = \frac{1}{1-q^s}$ Each series in the n th bracket means how many ns are in the partitions.)

The partition function of all oscillators is:

$$Z^{osc}(\beta) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{all \text{ the h.o.}}} e^{-\beta H} = \frac{1}{q^{1/24} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1-q^n)}$$

Here $q = e^{-\beta\omega_0}$

Definition 5.24 (high-low temperature “duality”).

$$\beta^{-1/4} Z^{osc}(\beta) = \tilde{\beta}^{-1/4} Z^{osc}(\tilde{\beta})$$

$$\beta\tilde{\beta} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\omega_0}\right)^2$$

In analytic number theory, we can rewrite $\tau = i\frac{\beta\omega_0}{2\pi}$ s.t. $q = e^{-\beta\omega_0} = e^{2\pi i\tau}$. We can define the Dedekind eta function:

$$\eta(\tau) := e^{2\pi i\tau/24} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1-q^n)$$

with crucial identity:

$$\eta(-1/\tau) = (-i\tau)^{1/2} \eta(\tau)$$

Remark (Physics interpretation). Consider a circular string with coordinate $\sigma \sim \sigma + 2\pi$ and the displacement of the string is $X(\sigma, t)$. The action will be:

$$S = \frac{1}{4\pi l_s^2} \int dt \int_0^{2\pi} d\sigma ((\partial_t X)^2 - (\partial_\sigma X)^2)$$

Here l_s is the units of length. The solution of the classical equation of motion $(\partial_t^2 - \partial_\sigma^2)X = 0$ is :

$$X(t, \sigma) = X_0 + l_s^2 p t + i \frac{l_s}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{n=0} \left(\frac{\alpha_n}{n} e^{in(t+\sigma)} + \frac{\tilde{\alpha}_n}{n} e^{in(t-\sigma)} \right)$$

with $\alpha_n = (\alpha_{-n})^*$, $\tilde{\alpha}_n = (\tilde{\alpha}_{-n})^*$

The Hamiltonian is

$$H = \frac{1}{4\pi l_s^3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\sigma ((\partial_t X)^2 + (\partial_\sigma X)^2)$$

$$H = \frac{1}{2} l_s p^2 + \frac{1}{2} l_s^{-1} \sum_{n \neq 0} (\alpha_{-n} \alpha_n + \tilde{\alpha}_{-n} \tilde{\alpha}_n)$$

When we quantizing the system we find $[X_0, p] = i\hbar$ and $[\alpha_n, \alpha_m] = n\delta_{n+m,0}$, $[\tilde{\alpha}_n, \tilde{\alpha}_m] = n\delta_{n+m,0}$, $[\alpha_n, \tilde{\alpha}_m] = 0$.

Then we represent thee Heisenberg algebras with vacua s.t. $\alpha_n |0\rangle = \tilde{\alpha}_n |0\rangle = 0$ for $n > 0$. By defining $a_n = \alpha_n/\sqrt{n}$ and $a_n^\dagger = \alpha_{-n}/\sqrt{n}$. Then

$$H = \frac{1}{2} l_s \hat{p}^2 + l_s^{-1} \left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n (a_n^\dagger a_n) + \tilde{a}_n^\dagger \tilde{a}_n \right] - \frac{1}{12}$$

Thus $\omega_0 = l_s^{-1}$

Definition 5.25 (Casimir energy). In physics, we interpret the ground state energy with the boundary condition. The renormalization can be thought of as the comparison of Two energies: The vacuum energy with boundary and without boundary. $\sum n$ and $\int x dx$

Then we can compute the partition function of this string:

$$Z(\beta) := \text{Tr } e^{-\beta H} = \left(\frac{R}{l_s} \right) \frac{l_s}{\sqrt{2\pi\beta l_s}} (Z^{osc}(\beta))^2 = \left(\frac{R}{l_s} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\beta\omega_0}} (Z^{osc}(\beta))^2$$

Definition 5.26 (partition). a partition is a sequence of nonegative integers $\lambda := \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$ s.t.

1. $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1}$
2. λ_i finally became zero.

The nonzero λ_i are called the parts of the partition.

we define $|\lambda| := \sum_i \lambda_i$. If $n = |\lambda|$ then we get a partition of n:

$$n = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_k$$

We say we have a partition of n with k parts.

Definition 5.27 (Young diagram). We set λ_i boxes in the i th row and call the "upside-down L- shape" a Young diagram.

Definition 5.28 (multiplicity). $m_i(\lambda)$ is called the multiplicity of λ in λ

$$m_i(\lambda) := |\{j | \lambda_j = i\}|$$

denote the number of rows in $Y(\lambda)$ with i boxes.

Example 5.9 (Conjugate partition.). If we flip $Y(\lambda)$ on the main diagonal: exchanging rows and columns. We can get another partition $Y(\lambda')$

$$\lambda'_i = |\{j | \lambda_j \geq i\}|$$

6 Centralizer Subgroups And Counting Conjugacy Classes

Definition 6.1 (centralizer subgroup). Let $g \in G$, the centralizer subgroup of g (normalizer subgroup), denoted $Z(g)$

$$Z(g) := \{h \in G | hg = gh\} = \{g \in G | hgh^{-1} = g\}$$

Remark.

$$Z(G) = \cap_{g \in G} Z(g)$$

We can build a 1-1 correspondence between $C(g)$ and $G/Z(g)$

Definition 6.2 (class equation).

We can decompose a finite group:

$$|G| = \sum_{\text{conj. classes}} |C(g)|$$

because of the 1-1 correspondence

$$|C(g)| = \frac{|G|}{|Z(g)|}$$

we can get the class equation:

$$|G| = \sum_{\text{conj. classes}} \frac{|G|}{|Z(g)|}$$

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