

Last time: A homomorphism  $f: H \rightarrow G$  is a map between groups that preserves multiplication.

We showed: If  $f: H \rightarrow G$  is a homomorphism then

(i)  $f(e_H) = e_G$

(ii)  $f(h^{-1}) = (f(h))^{-1}$

(iii)  $f(H) = \{ f(h) \mid h \in H \}$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

We defined, for  $g \in G$   $g^n = \begin{cases} \underbrace{g \cdots g}_n & \text{if } n > 0 \\ e & \text{if } n = 0 \\ \underbrace{g^{-1} \cdots g^{-1}}_{|n|} & \text{if } n < 0. \end{cases}$

We showed:  $\langle g \rangle := \{ g^n \mid n \in \mathbb{Z} \}$  is a subgroup of  $G$

It is the image of the homomorphism  $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G, f(n) = g^n$ .

Lemma 12.1 Let  $\{ H_\alpha \}_{\alpha \in A}$  be a collection of subgroups of  $G$ .  
Then  $\bigcap_{\alpha \in A} H_\alpha$  is a subgroup of  $G$ .

Proof Suppose  $a, b \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} H_\alpha$ . Then  $a, b \in H_\alpha \forall \alpha$ .

Since  $H_\alpha$  is a subgroup,  $ab^{-1} \in H_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha$ .

$\Rightarrow ab^{-1} \in \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} H_\alpha$

$\Rightarrow \bigcap_{\alpha \in A} H_\alpha$  is a subgroup of  $G$

Application Suppose  $G$  is a group and  $U \subseteq G$  a subset. Then

$\langle U \rangle = \bigcap_{\substack{H \leq G \\ U \subseteq H}} H$  group

is a subgroup of  $G$  by 12.1.

Claim Note If  $K \subseteq G$  is any subgroup containing  $U$

$\langle U \rangle = \bigcap_{\substack{H \leq G \\ U \subseteq H}} H \subseteq K$

$\therefore \langle U \rangle$  is the smallest subgroup containing  $U$

Definition A set  $U \subseteq G$  generates the group  $G$  if  $\langle U \rangle = G$ .

Ex If  $U = \{g\}$  and  $\langle U \rangle = G$ ,  $G$  is a cyclic group.

Ex  $S_3$  is generated by  $\{(12), (23)\}$ .

We'll prove later:

$S_n$  is generated by the set of 2-cycles.

Lemma 12.2 All subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}$  are cyclic:

If  $H$  is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  then  $H = k\mathbb{Z} \equiv \langle k \rangle$  for some  $k \geq 0$ .  
(compare with 2.2.21a of Goodman)

Proof If  $H = \{0\}$ , then  $H = \langle 0 \rangle$ .

Suppose  $H \neq \{0\}$ .

Consider  $S = \{n \in H \mid n > 0\}$ . Claim 1  $S \neq \emptyset$ .

Proof Since  $H \neq \{0\}$ ,  $\exists k \in H$  st  $k \neq 0$ . If  $k > 0$ ,  $k \in S$  and  $S \neq \emptyset$ .

If  $k < 0$ ,  $-k \in H$  since  $H$  is a subgroup.  $S \neq \emptyset$  since  $-k \in S$ .

By well-ordering  $S$  has the smallest element, call it  $d$ .

Claim 2  $H = d\mathbb{Z}$ .

Proof of claim 2 Given  $a \in H \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\exists q, r \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.

$$a = q \cdot d + r \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq r < d.$$

Since  $d \in H$  and  $H$  is a subgroup,  $q \cdot d = "d^q" \in H$

$$\Rightarrow r = a - q \cdot d \in H. \quad \text{Since } r < \min S', \quad r = 0.$$

$$\therefore a = q \cdot d \text{ for some } q \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\Rightarrow H \subseteq d\mathbb{Z}.$$

Since  $d \in H$ ,  $d\mathbb{Z} \subseteq H$ .  $\therefore H = d\mathbb{Z}$ . □

Definition A homomorphism  $f: H \rightarrow G$  between two groups is an isomorphism if  $f$  is 1-1 and onto.

Remark Suppose  $f: H \rightarrow G$  is an isomorphism. Then, since  $f$  is 1-1 and onto, it has an inverse  $h: G \rightarrow H$  (so that  $h(f(h)) = h \forall h \in H$ , and  $f(h(g)) = g \forall g \in G$ )

Claim  $h$  is also a homomorphism.

Proof We need to check:  $\forall a, b \in G \quad h(ab) = h(a)h(b)$ .

Now since  $f$  is onto,  $a = f(x)$ ,  $b = f(y)$  for some  $x, y \in H$ .

$\rightarrow$  w/ fact  $x = f^{-1}(a) = h(a)$  and  $y = f^{-1}(b) = h(b)$ .

Now

$$\begin{aligned} h(ab) &= h(f(x)f(y)) = h(f(xy)) \quad (f \text{ is a homomorphism}) \\ &= xy \quad (h = f^{-1}) \\ &= h(a)h(b) \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Definition Let  $f: H \rightarrow G$  be a homomorphism.

The kernel of  $f$  is the set

$$\ker f = \{ h \in H \mid f(h) = e_G \}$$

Proposition 12.3 Let  $f: H \rightarrow G$  be a homomorphism. Then

$$f(a) = f(b) \Leftrightarrow ab^{-1} \in \ker f$$

Proof  $f(a) = f(b) \Leftrightarrow f(a)(f(b))^{-1} = e_G$

$$\Leftrightarrow f(a)f(b^{-1}) = e_G$$

$$\Leftrightarrow f(ab^{-1}) = e_G$$

$$\Leftrightarrow ab^{-1} \in \ker f.$$

Corollary 12.4 (compare with 2.4.16 in Goodman)

A homomorphism  $f: H \rightarrow G$  is 1-1  $\Leftrightarrow \ker f = \{e_H\}$ .

Remark:  $e_H \in \ker f$  since  $f(e_H) = e_G$ . In fact we'll see soon  $\ker f$  is a subgroup of  $H$ .

Proof ( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $f$  is 1-1,  $a \in \ker f$ . Then  $f(a) = e_G = f(e_H)$ .  
Since  $f$  is 1-1,  $a = e_H$ .  $\Rightarrow \ker f = \{e_H\}$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Suppose  $\ker f = \{e_H\}$  and  $a, b \in H$  and

(by 12.3)  $f(a) = f(b)$ .

Then  $ab^{-1} \in \ker f = \{e_H\}$ .  $\Rightarrow ab^{-1} = e_H \Rightarrow a = b$

$\therefore f$  is 1-1. □

Ex  $\pi: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n$  is a homomorphism.  $\ker \pi = \{k \in \mathbb{Z} \mid [k] = [0]\} = n\mathbb{Z} \neq \{0\}$   
 $\pi$  is not 1-1.

$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^x$   $f(x) = e^x$

$\ker f = \{x \mid e^x = 1\} = \{0\}$ .  $f$  is 1-1.

Lemma 12.5 Let  $f: H \rightarrow G$  be a homomorphism. Then

(i)  $\ker f$  is a subgroup of  $H$

(ii)  $\forall a \in H \quad \forall x \in \ker f \quad axa^{-1} \in \ker f$ .

Proof (i)  $\forall x, y \in \ker f$ ,  $f(xy^{-1}) = f(x)(f(y))^{-1} = e_G \cdot e_G^{-1} = e_G$   
 $\Rightarrow xy^{-1} \in \ker f$ .  $\Rightarrow \ker f$  is a subgroup.

$\forall x \in \ker f \quad \forall a \in H$

$f(axa^{-1}) = f(a)f(x)f(a^{-1}) = f(a)e_G(f(a))^{-1} = f(a)f(a)^{-1} = e_G$ .

$\Rightarrow axa^{-1} \in \ker f$ .

Definition A subgroup  $K$  of a group  $G$  is normal if  
 $\forall x \in K \quad \forall g \in G \quad gxg^{-1} \in K$

Ex Any subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  is normal.  $\langle (12) \rangle \in S_3$  is not normal.