

Cyclic Group

Defⁿ. (Cyclic Group): - A group G is called cyclic if, for some $a \in G$, every element $x \in G$ is of the form a^n , where n is some integer. The element a is then called a generator of G .

(Theorem 1) Every cyclic group is an abelian group.

Proof: - Let $G = \{a\}$ be a cyclic group generated by a .

Let x, y be any two elements of G .

Then \exists integers r and s such that, $x = a^r, y = a^s$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } xy &= a^r \cdot a^s = a^{r+s} = a^{s+r} \\ &= a^s a^r = yx. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have $xy = yx \forall x, y \in G$.

Therefore G is abelian.

(Theorem 2): - A cyclic group G with generator of finite order n , is isomorphic to the multiplicative group of n n th roots of unity.

Proof: - Let a be a generator of the cyclic group G . Since the order of a is n , therefore n is the least +ve integer such that,
 $a^n = e$.

We shall show that the group G has exactly n distinct elements,

$$a, a^2, a^3, \dots, a^n = e = a^0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

No two elements of (1) can be equal. For it possible, let

$$a^r = a^s, \quad 1 \leq s < r \leq n. \quad \text{Then } a^{r-s} = a^0 = e.$$

Since $0 < r-s < n$, therefore $a^{r-s} = e$ implies that the order

of a is less than n .

Hence, $a^r \neq a^s$.

Therefore all the n elements in (1) are distinct. Again, let a^t be any element of G . By division algorithm, there exist two integers p & q such that,

$$t = np + q, \quad 0 \leq q < n. \quad \left[\text{We can write } \frac{t}{n} = p + \frac{q}{n} \right]$$

$$\therefore a^t = a^{np+q}$$

$$= a^{np} a^q = (a^n)^p a^q = e^p a^q = e a^q = a^q.$$

Since $0 \leq q < n$, therefore a^q is one of the n elements in (1). Thus, each element of G is equal to some member of (1). Therefore G has exactly n elements given in (1). Thus $o(a) = o(G)$.

We shall now show that G is isomorphic to the multiplicative group G' of the n th roots of unity, namely,

$$1 = e^{2\pi i 0/n}, e^{2\pi i 1/n}, e^{4\pi i 2/n}, \dots, e^{2\pi i (n-1)/n}, \dots, e^{2\pi i (n-1)/n}$$

Consider the mapping $f: G \rightarrow G'$ defined by

$$f(a^r) = e^{2\pi i r/n}, \quad \text{where } 0 \leq r \leq n-1.$$

The mapping f is one-one. Since

$$f(a^r) = f(a^s), \quad \text{where } 0 \leq r \leq n-1, 0 \leq s \leq n-1.$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{2\pi i r/n} = e^{2\pi i s/n} \Rightarrow r = s \Rightarrow a^r = a^s.$$

Again, the number of elements in G is equal to the number of elements in G' . Therefore f is one-one implies f must be onto G' .

Finally,

$$f(a^r a^s) = f(a^{r+s}) = f(a^{nu+k}), \quad \text{where } u \text{ is}$$

some integer & $0 \leq k < n$

$$= f(a^{nu} a^k) = f[(a^n)^u a^k]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= f(a^k) && [\because a^n = e] \\
&= e^{2\pi k i/n} && [\text{by defn of } f] \\
&= e^{2\pi n u i/n} e^{2\pi k i/n} && [\because e^{2\pi u i} = 1] \\
&= e^{2\pi i(nu+k)/n} \\
&= e^{2\pi i(r+s)/n} = e^{2\pi i r/n} e^{2\pi i s/n} = f(a^r) f(a^s).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore f preserves compositions in G_1 and G_1' . Hence G_1 is isomorphic to G_1' .

Since every finite cyclic group of order n is isomorphic to the multiplicative group of n th roots of unity.

(Theorem 3): - Every group of Prime order is cyclic.

Proof: - Suppose G_1 is a finite group whose order is a Prime number p , then to prove that G_1 is a cyclic group, and its the only divisors of p are $\pm 1, \pm p$.

Since G_1 is a group of Prime order, therefore G_1 must contain at least 2 elements. Therefore, there must exist an element $a \in G_1$ such that $a \neq$ the identity element e .

Since a is not the identity element, therefore $o(a)$ is definitely ≥ 2 . Let $o(a) = m$.

If H is the cyclic subgroup of G_1 , generated by

a , then $o(H) = o(a) = m$ [By Lagrange's theorem m must be a divisor of p .]

But p is prime

and $m \geq 2$. Hence $m = p$.

$\therefore H = G_1$. Since H is cyclic therefore G_1 is cyclic and a is a generator of G_1 .