

6. Amalgamated products

Def 6.1: Let G, H be groups, $A \leq G$, $B \leq H$ subgroups and $f: A \rightarrow B$ an isomorphism. The group $G \underset{A=B}{*} H = G *_A H := \langle G *_A H \mid \alpha = f(a), a \in A \rangle$ is called the amalgamated product of G and H over A .

$$= G *_A H / \{f(a)a^{-1} : a \in A\}^{G *_A H}$$

Ex.: $A = \{1\} \rightarrow G *_A H = G *_H H$

• Seifert-van-Kampen Thm: X top. space, $U, V \subseteq X$ open, path-connected s.t.

• $X = U \cup V$

• $U \cap V \neq \emptyset$, path connected

Then $\pi_1(X) \cong \pi_1(U) *_A \pi_1(V)$

$$\begin{array}{c} \pi_1(U \cap V) \hookrightarrow \pi_1(U) \\ \hookrightarrow \pi_1(V) \end{array}$$

Def 6.2: Let \mathcal{J}_A and \mathcal{J}_B be systems of ^{right} coset representatives for A in G and B in H s.t. $A_g \in \mathcal{J}_A, A_h \in \mathcal{J}_B$ (transversals) (right coset. $A \cdot g, B \cdot g$)

An A-normal form in $G *_A H$ (wrt $\mathcal{J}_A, \mathcal{J}_B$) is a sequence

$(x_0, \dots, x_n), n \geq 0$, where

i) $x_0 \in A$

ii) for $i > 0$, $x_i \in (\mathcal{J}_A \setminus \{1\}) \cup (\mathcal{J}_B \setminus \{1\})$ and $x_i \in \mathcal{J}_A$ iff $x_{i+n} \in \mathcal{J}_B$.

B-normal forms are defined analogously.

Ex.: $G = \langle a \mid a^{12} = 1 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$

$H = \langle b \mid b^{15} = 1 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/15\mathbb{Z}$ $\cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$

$A = \langle a^4 \rangle \leq G \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}, B = \langle b^5 \rangle \leq H$

$$f: A \rightarrow B \quad ; \quad f(a^n) = b^5$$

Possible choices for J_A, J_B :

$$A \setminus G = \{A \cdot 1, A \cdot a, A \cdot a^2, A \cdot a^3\}$$

$$J_A = \{1, a, a^2, a^3\} \quad | \quad J_B = \{1, a^5, a^2, a^3\}$$

$$J_B = \{1, b, b^2, b^3, b^4\}$$

$$G \rtimes_{A=B} H = \langle a, b \mid a^{12} = 1, b^{15} = 1, a^4 = b^5 \rangle$$

Write f in normal form: J_A

$$f = a^3 b a^5 = a^3 b a^4 \cdot a = a^3 b b^5 \cdot a = a^3 b^6 \cdot a = \dots$$

$$\dots = a^3 b^5 \cdot b \cdot a = a^3 a^4 \cdot b \cdot a = a^7 b \cdot a = a^4 \cdot a^3 \cdot b \cdot a$$

$\rightarrow (a^4, a^3, b, a)$ is an A -normal form "for f ".

Def 6.3: There is a bijection from the set of A -normal forms to the set of B -normal forms given by

$$(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (f(x_0), x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

$$G \text{ } (a^4, a^3, b, a) \mapsto (b^5, a^3, b, a)$$

Thm 6.4: Any element $f \in F := G \rtimes_A H$ can uniquely be written in normal form. I.e. for transversal J_A, J_B , there is a unique A -normal form $(x_0, \dots, x_n) \in A$. $f = x_0 \dots x_n$.

3f.: Existence as in example.

Uniqueness: Let W_A, W_B be the set of A and B -normal forms and let $f_*: W_A \rightarrow W_B$ be the bij.

from Def 6.3.

Idea: Define an action $F \curvearrowright W_A$.

First define an action of $G \curvearrowright W_A$ as follows:

First define an action of $G \curvearrowright W_A$ as follows:

For $g \in G$, write $g = \tilde{g} \bar{g}$ for the unique decompos. with $\tilde{g} \in A$, $\bar{g} \in JA$.

Ex. above: $g = a^3 b a^5 = \underbrace{a^3 b a^4}_{\tilde{g}} \cdot \underbrace{a}_{\bar{g}}$

Now for $\tau = (x_0, \dots, x_n) \in W_A$, define:

if $n=0$,

$$g \cdot \tau = g \cdot (x_0) = \begin{cases} (gx_0) & , \text{ if } g \in A \\ (\tilde{g}x_0, \overline{g}x_0) & , \text{ if } g \notin A \end{cases}$$

if $n \geq 1$,

$$g \cdot \tau = \begin{cases} (gx_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) & , \text{ if } g \in A \\ (\tilde{g}x_0, \overline{g}x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n) & , \text{ if } g \notin A, x_n \in H \\ (gx_0x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) & , \text{ if } g \in A, x_1 \in G, gx_0x_1 \in A \\ (\tilde{g}x_0x_1, \overline{g}x_0x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) & , \text{ if } g \in A, x_1 \in G, gx_0x_1 \notin A \end{cases}$$

Exerc.: Check that the def. defines an action on W_A .

Analogously, define $H \curvearrowright W_B$. Use this to get an action $H \curvearrowright W_A$, $h \cdot \tau := \ell_h^{-1}(h \cdot \ell_h(\tau))$, for $h \in H, \tau \in W_A$.

For all $a \in A, \tau \in W_A$, we have $a \cdot \tau = \ell(a) \cdot \tau$, so we get an induced action $G \curvearrowright_A H \curvearrowright W_A$. See Padlet.

To finish, let $f \in F$ and write it in A -norm $f = x_0 x_1 \dots x_n$.

Then the the image of $(1) \in W_A$ under the action of f is:

$$\begin{aligned} f \cdot (1) &= x_0 \dots x_n (1) = x_0 \dots x_{n-1} (1, x_n) = x_0 \dots x_{n-2} (1, x_{n-1}, x_n) = \dots \\ &= x_0 (1, x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the image of (1) uniquely determines the normal form decompos. of f . □

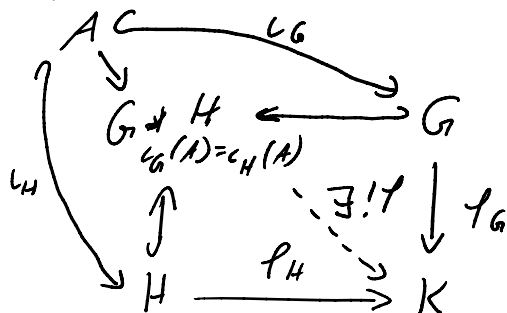
Cor 6.5: Let $F = G \curvearrowright_A H$. The canonical projection $G \curvearrowright_A H \rightarrow F$

Cor 6.5: Let $F = G *_A H$. The canonical projection $G *_A H \rightarrow F$ induces embeddings $G, H \rightarrow F$. The images $c(G), c(H)$ of these embeddings generate F and $c(G) \cap c(H) = c(A) = c(B)$.

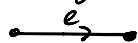
Cor. 6.6: If F is a group and $G, H \leq F$, $A \leq G \cap H$ are subgroups such that every $f \in F$ has a unique A -normal form, then $F \cong G *_A H$.

Def 6.7: The amalgamated product is the cofibre product in the category of groups. I.e., it can be defined via the following universal property:

Let $A \xrightarrow{c_G} G$, $A \xrightarrow{c_H} H$ be inj. homomorphisms. Then for every pair of homomorphisms $p_G: G \rightarrow K$, $p_H: H \rightarrow K$ s.t. $p_G \circ c_G = p_H \circ c_H$, there is a unique homomorphism $p: G *_A H \rightarrow K$ such that the following diagram commutes:



Def 6.8: A segment is a graph consisting of two vertices and two mutually inverse edges between them.



Def 6.9: $G \curvearrowright X$ graph without inversions, s.t. $G \setminus X$ is a segment.

$\leadsto G \curvearrowright X^0$ has two orbits $X^0 = X_1^0 \cup X_2^0$, $G \curvearrowright X_i^0$ trans.

$G \curvearrowright X_+^1$ transitive

\rightarrow get an induced colouring of vertices and X is bipartite, i.e. there are no edges between vertices

... bipartite, i.e. there are no edges between vertices of the same colour

(i.e. if $v, v' \in X_1^0$, then there is no edge between v and v')

(Converse true as well.)

Def 6.10 (ad-hoc): Let G be a group, G_1, G_2 subgroups and $A \leq G_1 \cap G_2$. The associated coset graph is the graph defined by

$$X^0 := G/G_1 \cup G/G_2, \quad X^1 := G/A \text{ with} \\ \alpha(gA) = gG_1, \quad \omega(gA) = gG_2.$$

Observation 6.11.

1) The edges starting at $g \cdot G_1$ are all of the form $g \cdot g_1 A$, where $g_1 \in G_1$. Analogously for $g \cdot G_2$.

This implies: Let \overline{J}_A and \overline{J}_B be transversals for the sets of left cosets G_1/A and G_2/A . Let $g \in G$. Then...

... for every $g_1 \in \overline{J}_A$, there is exactly one positively oriented edge that starts at $g \cdot G_1$. It is of the form $g \cdot g_1 A$
 ... for every $g_2 \in \overline{J}_B$, there is exactly one positively oriented edge that ends at $g \cdot G_2$. It is of the form $g \cdot g_2 A$.

2) Let J_A and J_B be transversals for the sets of right cosets $A \backslash G_1$ and $A \backslash G_2$.

There is a 1-to-1 correspondence

$$\{A\text{-normal forms of } g \text{ with resp. to } J_A, J_B\}$$

$$\cong \{\text{reduced paths in } X \text{ from } 1 \cdot G_1 \text{ to } g^{-1} \cdot G_1\}.$$

3f.: 1) exercise

2) Using the bijection between right and left cosets given

$$\text{by } A \backslash G_i \rightarrow G_i / A$$

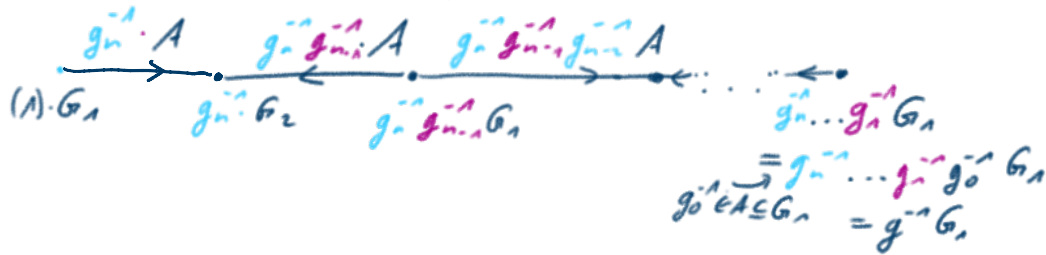
$$A g_i \xrightarrow{\quad} g_i^{-1} A,$$

... .. = =

$A g_i \mapsto g_i^{-1} A$,
 the transversals $\overline{J}_A, \overline{J}_B$ give us transversals $\overline{J}_A, \overline{J}_B$
 for the left cosets of A .

Let $g = g_0 \dots g_n$ be a normal form for g , i.e. $g_0 \in A$ and
 the g_i are alternating between \overline{J}_A and \overline{J}_B . Assume that
 $g_1 \in \overline{J}_B, g_n \in \overline{J}_A$.

Then $g^{-1} = g_n^{-1} \dots g_1^{-1} g_0^{-1}$, where $g_0^{-1} \in A$ and the g_i^{-1} are
 alternating between \overline{J}_A and \overline{J}_B . By A), there is a
 unique reduced path of the form



If $g_n \in \overline{J}_B$ or $g_1 \in \overline{J}_A$, concatenate the path with
 the (unique) edges $\xrightarrow{A \cdot G_1} A \cdot G_2$ or $\xleftarrow{g_n^{-1} \dots g_1^{-1} G_2} g_n^{-1} \dots g_1^{-1} G_n$

On the other hand, A) implies that every path from
 $A \cdot G_n$ to $g^{-1} G_n$ can be written in the form above. Hence,
 it defines a unique A -normal form for g . \square