

**Question 1.** Suppose  $G$  is a group and  $S$  a subset of  $G$ . Write down a real proof that  $C(G, S)$  is connected if and only if  $S$  is a generating set for  $G$ . Recall that  $S$  generates  $G$  if each element of  $G$  can be written as a product of elements of  $S$  and their inverses.

**Question 2.** Suppose  $G$  is a group and  $S$  a (finite? not sure if you need this) generating set of  $G$ . Suppose  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$ . Show that  $H$  is of finite index in  $G$  if and only if there exists a  $D > 0$  such that each element of  $G$  is within  $D$  of an element of  $H$ .

**Question 3.** Use the "drawing trick" to draw the Cayley graph of  $D_n$  (symmetries of the regular  $n$ -gon) with respect to two adjacent reflections.

**Question 4.** Try to do the "drawing trick" for  $S_4$  generated by the 3 adjacent transpositions  $\{(1\ 2), (2\ 3), (3\ 4)\}$  by viewing  $S_4$  as the symmetry group of a regular tetrahedron.

**Question 5.** Harder problem: Give a combinatorial description of the Cayley graph of  $S_n$  with respect to the elementary transpositions  $T_{n-1} = \{(1\ 2), (2\ 3), \dots, (n-1\ n)\}$ .

**Question 6.** Use the fact that  $C(S_n, T_{n-1})$  from the previous problem is a bipartite graph to show that each permutation  $\sigma \in S_n$  can be assigned a parity in a well-defined way - more rigorously, there is a group homomorphism  $f$  from  $S_n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  (the group of order 2) defined by  $f(\sigma)$  is 0 if  $\sigma$  can be written as a product of an even number of transpositions and  $f(\sigma) = 1$  if  $\sigma$  can be written as a product of an odd number of transpositions.

**Hints:**

- In a bipartite graph, all loops have even length.
- We already know that each  $\sigma \in S_n$  can be written as a product of transpositions - but not in a unique way. If you don't know this fact already, I bet you can convince yourself of it pretty quickly - you will use this fact of course.
- Each transposition  $(i\ j)$  can be written as the product of an odd  $j$  number of elements from  $T_{n-1}$  - you should prove this. First show it for transpositions of the form  $(1\ a)$  for any  $a > 1$ . Then use the fact that  $(a\ b)$  with  $a < b$  can be written as  $(1\ a)(1\ b)(1\ a)$  to conclude what you need.

**Question 7.** Draw the Cayley graph of  $G = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  where  $G$  is generated by  $S = \{(\pm 1, 0), (0, \pm 1)\}$  as an undirected graph with two colors.

**Question 8.** See if you can explain how to "recognize" a normal subgroup  $H$  in  $C(G, S)$  where  $H$  is generated by a subset of  $S$ .